

Kalamazoo  
Public Library

76-17843

H 920 M481 v.29

DIRECTIONS FOR OPERATING  
THE DURABILT F. O. MINUTE BOOK

(FLEXIBLE POSTS) SHORT PULL ROD STYLE

PATENT 967537—1019174—1056926—1247438—1247704—1738305  
ABOVE PATENT NUMBERS MUST NOT BE COVERED

**TO UNLOCK** the book, raise cover to be unlocked to a vertical position, and pull rod out as far as it will come.

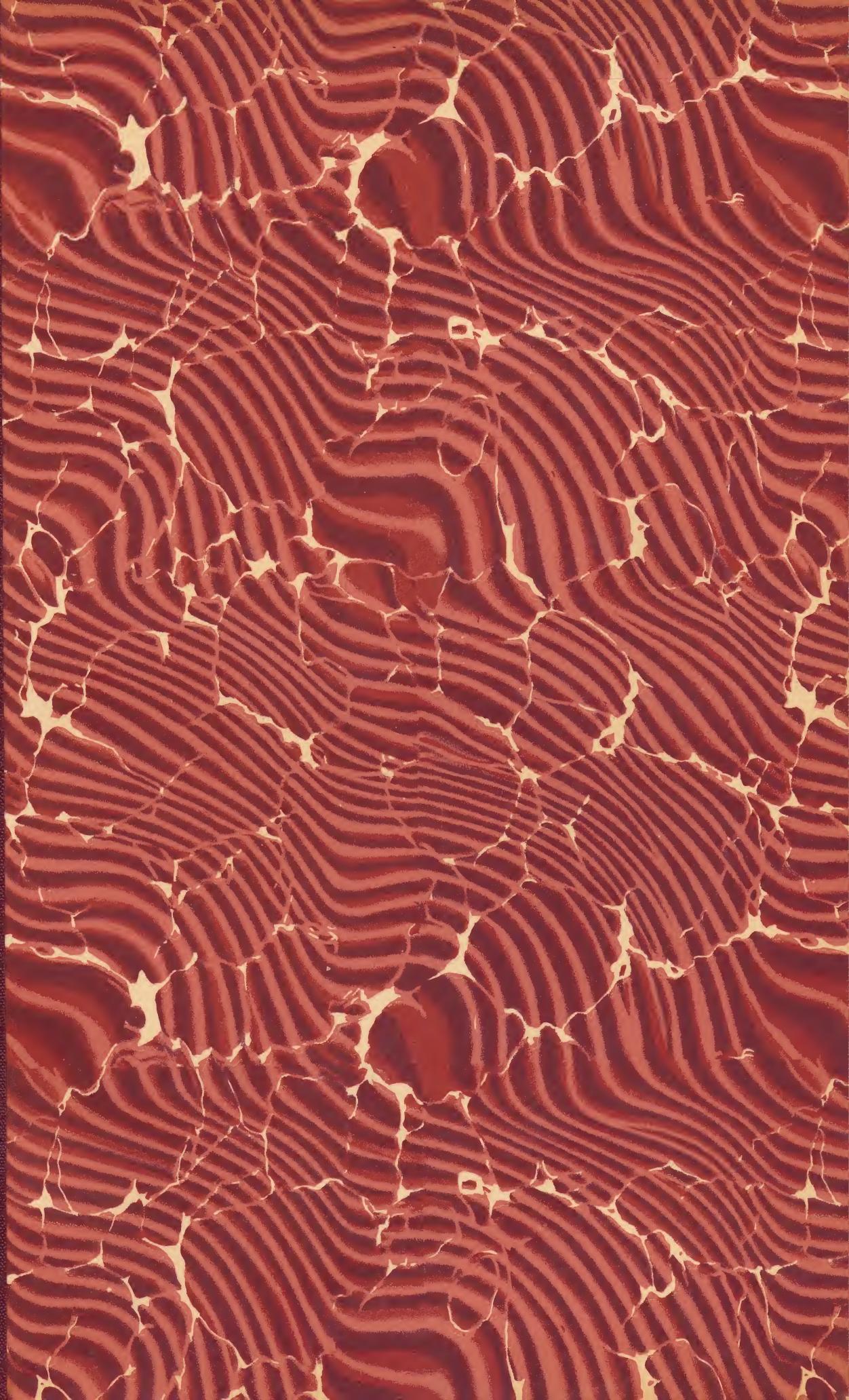
**TO LOCK**—Adjust the cover back into position so the notches in the cover fit over the posts, then push in rod.

Do not attempt to unlock either cover unless opposite cover is locked, as posts should always be held in one of the covers.

**TO LOCK BOOK PERMANENTLY**—This is only to be done when all the sheets are written up and placed in the binder, for once permanently locked, it is impossible to unlock or open it.

For this purpose two permanent locking buttons are furnished. Insert these sealing buttons into the round holes near end of locking case so that the slot in the Sealing Button runs lengthwise with the binder. Then drive in button with sufficient force to turn the ends of split button. This permanently locks and seals the book.

MADE IN U. S. A.





# HISTORICAL DIRECTORY



Collected and Compiled by

ROBERT EUGENE MEADER

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC LIBRARY

H  
920  
M481  
v.29

HISTORICAL  
DICTIONARY



of Webster's New International

Historical Dictionary, 1929

1929. 1929. 1929.

76-17843

Robert John Shanley



R O B E R T   J O H N   S H A N L E Y

1 9 2 1   -   1 9 4 4

-0-

Bob Shanley's childhood was an unusually delightful one. Being the only child in a family may have some disadvantages, but in this case parents, relatives and friends surrounded Bob with much love and attention. This might have spoiled some children, but these wise parents, although indulgent, carefully trained their son and taught him to honor his parents, to be truthful and kind and to love God and his fellowman.

All this training made Bob Shanley the fine young man he was, a winning personality, warm and radiant, generous and kind, a big, tender, sentimental typical young "happy-go-lucky Irishman." He often remarked that he had "the luck of the Irish." That luck held until June 6, 1944.

Robert John Shanley was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, December 13, 1921, the son of Bernard Michael Shanley of Irish descent, and Margaret Garske Shanley of German heritage. Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Shanley were born, raised and married in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and have lived all their lives in Kalamazoo,



where both of their mothers are still residing at the time of this writing in 1944.

Robert Shanley attended St. Joseph's Parochial School until he reached the tenth grade, when he entered Central High School and completed the work of the twelfth grade. He was practically an all A student. He played on the "Varsity" foot ball team for two years and received his letter. He was also a member of the swimming team and was one of the "Wrestlers." He went out for base ball in his last year and made the team. He excelled in foot ball but was "run of the mill" in base ball. He played a good game of golf too, but his favorite sports were hunting and fishing. In the fall he accompanied his uncles, Herman and Ted Garske, deer hunting in Northern Michigan. Ted Garske is now with the SeaBees. He also made frequent fishing trips with these uncles.

After completing his high school work Bob found employment with the Fuller Manufacturing Company.

#### Military Experience

July 17, 1942, Robert John Shanley enlisted in the United States Army along with two of his former Central High School chums, Robert Lentenbrink and Budford Green. The three chums requested assignments in a radio unit of the signal corps.



The three remained together during their basic training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and then their ways parted. Robert remained at Fort Sill about five months and was then transferred to Camp Gordon, Georgia, and assigned to the 4th Division, Field Artillery, as a gunner.

His next move was to Fort Dix, New Jersey, and later returned to Fort Sill. He was then sent to Camp Gordon Johnson in Florida, where he received his amphibious training, and then transferred to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and advanced to the rank of Sergeant.

At Fort Jackson Sgt. Shanley was outfitted for overseas and sent to the point of embarkation. He left for overseas about the middle of January 1944, and landed in England where he remained until D Day, June 6, 1944, when he left with his Division for the invasion of France. But he did not reach the French coast that fateful day on which he gave his life for the cause of freedom. The body was carried back to England for burial.

#### Romance and Marriage

When Robert was fourteen years old and a student at St. Joseph's School, he became interested in a girl who was also a student in the school, Miss Ann Scymkowski, who was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, July



11, 1921, daughter of Benjamin Scymkowski, who was born in Chicago, Illinois, July 8, 1902. Ann's mother was Ethel Corder Scymkowski, who was born in Waverly, Kentucky, April 6, 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Scymkowski have lived all their married lives in Kalamazoo and have another daughter, Norma, who was born December 1, 1927, and resides with her parents.

Ann Scymkowski also attended Central High School and was graduated in 1940. The interest and friendship which Robert Shanley and Ann Scymkowski found in each other when they were fourteen increased through the eight following years and culminated in their marriage by the Reverend Father Richard Grace of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Kalamazoo on December 12, 1942. This marriage took place while Robert was home from Camp Gordon, Georgia, on a twelve day furlough.

In May 1943, Mrs. Robert Shanley, accompanied by Robert's father and mother, visited Bob for a week in Trenton, New Jersey.

June 10, 1943, Bob was granted another furlough for eleven days, which he spent in Kalamazoo. On July 30, 1943, Mrs. Shanley joined her husband in New York City and stayed about twelve days. Two weeks later Bob won in a sharp-shooting contest in which the winner was promised a furlough and



Sgt. Robert Shanley had another furlough.

On December 10, 1943, Mrs. Shanley again left Kalamazoo to be near her husband, who was at Fort Jackson. She remained until he left for overseas.

#### Personal Characteristics

Robert John Shanley was five feet eleven and one-half inches tall, weighed about two hundred ten pounds, was well built and had brown hair and eyes. His smile was warm and engaging with dimples which made him the object of much chaffing in school.

He enjoyed reading, especially stories of adventure. Popular Mechanics was popular with him. With his chemistry set he tried many experiments in his basement work shop. He was also an ardent stamp collector.

Bob had a Chow dog, "Andy", which he raised from a puppy. In his letters, Sgt. Shanley always enquired about Andy. Three days before D Day Andy died, so Bob did not have to be told.

Sgt. Shanley was a communicant of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Kalamazoo and was at one time an altar boy.

Bob Shanley had much for which to live. He loved life and put enthusiasm into every day. Common things thrilled him and he glorified each day with his happy outlook and charming personality.



The world needs more young men of his calibre, but who can say but that in laying down his life he did more for humanity than in living on the earth?

Robert Shanley lives on in the radiance he brought to his hosts of friends, his parents and his devoted wife.



Mr. & Mrs. W<sup>m</sup> A. Shelyen



M R . & M R S .  
W I L L I A M A L B E R T S H E L V E N  
1 8 6 7 - 1 9 4 4  
1 8 7 2 -  
-o-

William Albert Shelven was born in Grand Haven, Michigan, December 1, 1867, the son of John and Jane Klise Shelven, both of whom were born in the Netherlands. John Shelven came to the United States as a young man and Jane Klise was brought to Holland, Michigan, when she was six months old, by her parents who came from the Netherlands with the Dr. Van Raalte party in 1847 and were among the pioneers who originally settled in Holland, Michigan. John and Jane Shelven were married in Grand Haven. Her father became the first post master in that city. John Shelven conducted a grocery business in Grand Haven for some time and died when his son William was four years old, leaving his widow and three children older than William: Jane, Celia and Albert. The next ten years William was raised by his maternal grandmother.

In 1881, William's widowed mother was married to a Mr. Zuydam and they resided for a time in Zeeland, Michigan, after which they moved to Thule, North Dakota, and became the parents of: Cornelia,



Henrietta, Dick and Alice. After these children were grown, Mr. Zuydam died and his widow returned to Holland, Michigan, to care for her aged mother, who, after the death of her first husband, Mr. Klise, had married Dingmond Van Leenen, who had also passed away. Mrs. Zuydam tenderly cared for her mother until her death at the age of ninety-three. Then Mrs. Zuydam made her home with her daughter, Alice Tenholt. Mrs. Zuydam reached the same advanced age as her mother and died when ninety-three years old. At the site of the Van Leenen home the DePree Medical Company now, 1944, have their plant.

William Shelven attended school in Holland, Michigan, through the grammar grades. He then came to Kalamazoo, Michigan, to work and attended the Preparatory School in connection with Kalamazoo College, where he was a member of the first foot ball team. He worked summers so that he might attend school winters.

When the first Worlds Fair was on he went to Chicago to be a guard and was assigned to the body guard of President Grover Cleveland while he was attending the fair. When The Century of Progress was held in 1933, Mr. and Mrs. William Shelven were invited to Chicago to meet with other living members of the 1893 guards and were entertained for a day and



an evening.

In 1896, Mr. Shelven joined the Light Guards of Company C and in April 1898 volunteered with his Company for service in the Spanish American War. They went to Island Lake, Michigan, for training and mobilization and from there to Tampa, Florida. He contracted typhoid fever and spent months in the hospital at Fort McPherson in Georgia, and was honorably discharged from the army November 1, 1898.

Upon his return to Kalamazoo William worked at interior decorating, a trade which he had learned.

January 15, 1901, William Albert Shelven was married to Miss Cornelia Nellie Kalle of South Haven, Michigan, daughter of one of the pioneers of that city, Peter A. Kalle and his wife, Helena Remensye Kalle. They were of old French stock and fled to Holland from France at the time of the great Revolution. Mr. Kalle spoke four languages. He and his wife also became the parents of Adrian G. Kalle and G. Leo Kalle, both of whom reside in South Haven, Michigan.

Cornelia Kalle was born May 7, 1872, in South Haven, and attended school through the eleventh grade, which was all that city provided at that time. For a time, Miss Kalle was employed by M. Hale and Company, a dry goods firm in South Haven. She then



accepted a position with Rosenbaum & Speyer, now J. R. Jones Sons & Company, Kalamazoo, where she worked for eight years.

Mr. and Mrs. William Shelven became the parents of:

Glenn Albert, born December 22, 1901, married Florence Simmons of Kalamazoo and became the father of William Lawrence, born January 24, 1924, Glenn Albert, Jr., born April 10, 1925, Robert Stone, born July 27, 1927, residing in Kalamazoo - William and Glenn are serving their country, one in the Marines, the other in the Navy;

Lawrence Adrian, born October 4, 1903, married Jeanne Johnson and they became the parents of Thomas Nevins, born Gerald Francis, born June 10, 1931, Alice Ann, born , and Susan Kay, born , living in Deerfield, Illinois.

Mr. William Shelven went on the police force in Kalamazoo in 1904 and served until 1906, when he resigned because his ardent dry sentiments were not in accord with the administration. He then resumed his work of decorating and was employed for a long time in the Charles B. Hays sub-division.

He was appointed constable and served in that office for some time. He also served as deputy sheriff under the administrations of Sheriffs Elton Eaton and Fred Putnam, putting in seven and one-half years in that capacity, following which he retired



because of ill health.

In 1928, Mr. and Mrs. Shelven built a commodious home at 229 North Berkeley street, where death came to him April 14, 1944.

Mr. and Mrs. Shelven were both active members of the First Baptist Church in Kalamazoo. She had joined the Baptist Church in South Haven in 1890 and her membership was transferred in 1892 when she came to Kalamazoo. She also affiliated with the Young Womens Christian Association. He joined the First Baptist Church in February 1889 and served as a Deacon and was a charter member of the Men's Class.

Mr. Shelven was a tall man with light brown hair and blue eyes. He had a warm personality and a winning smile, which won him many friends and held them.

He was a member of Anchor lodge F. & A. M., and a charter member and a past Commander of Richard Westnedge Camp No. 16 United Spanish War Veterans.

He loved his home through the years and his whole life was bound up in his wife and children. He always took his stand for the right and stood for his convictions. William Albert Shelven lived and died a stalwart man of God. His favorite Psalm was the First and

"His delight was in the law of His Lord."



Rex Sherman



R E X   A L B E R T   S H E R M A N

1 9 1 9   -   1 9 4 4

-o-

Rex Albert Sherman was born near Battle Creek, Michigan, September 5, 1919, the son of Charles Ray and Helen Olga Sprague Sherman of English and Dutch ancestry. Rex had a brother, Ronald Sprague, born August 22, 1927. The Sherman family has resided for some years at Gourdneck Lake, south of Kalamazoo, Michigan. For nineteen years prior to the time of this writing in 1945, Charles Ray Sherman has taught Industrial Arts in the Central High School in Kalamazoo.

Rex took the training through the grades at Lake Center School and at the Vine Street School in Kalamazoo and was graduated from Portage Center Agricultural School in 1937. In the fall of that year he entered Western Michigan College of Education and took the course leading to the Bachelor of Science degree. He was interested in forestry but turned his attention to his father's field of Industrial Arts. He received his degree in 1942 and started his teaching career at Richland, Michigan, in the high school.



### Marriage

While a student at Western Michigan College of Education, Rex Albert Sherman was married to the girl who was his sweetheart in high school, Miss Mary Lamson of Portage, the daughter of Riley and Inez Crawford Lamson of good Yankee stock. Mary has one sister and two brothers: Edward, born September 4, 1917; Lyle, born November 26, 1921; and Etta, born November 25, 1924. Rex and Mary were married September 5, 1940, by the Reverend Frank Wright, at the Lamson home. , they became the parents of Rosemary Kay, who is with her mother at Portage.

### Military Experience

The summer of 1942 Rex took Civil Service training in Chicago, where Navy students were taught mathematics, blue printing and mechanical drawing. In the fall of 1942 he went to Memphis, Tennessee, for further training.

November 30, 1942, he enlisted in the Navy and remained in Memphis to teach. His wife accompanied him to Memphis and they were together while he was teaching blue print drawing and mathematics.

From September 30, 1945, until January 20, 1944, Rex took officers' training at Notre Dame University and then went to Ohio State University at Columbus,



Ohio, where he took a special course. He was then sent to Baltimore, Maryland, to be shipped out. He remained in Baltimore until June, having arrived there April 13, 1944, and was sent to the Pacific Area. He was assigned to a PT boat tender and was in charge of recognition work and was director of education and recreation. His outfit assisted in the invasion of Leyte, Phillipine Islands. At Mindoro, Phillipine Islands, at 10 A. M. December 30, 1944, three Jap planes came over and one was shot down. It landed in the water and bounced back on the ship Rex was on. Sixty were killed and eighty wounded. Rex was in the Communications Office putting confidential papers into the safe and lost his life.

#### Personal Characteristics

Rex Sherman was five feet ten and one-half inches tall, well built but slender, with a fair skin, brown hair and blue eyes.

He was an average student and made fair grades but did not care to spend all his time with books. He engaged in athletic sports and won medals at track. He played basketball and enjoyed other athletic contests. He was a good sport and won friends easily. He had leadership ability and was a good officer evidenced by his rank of Ensign.



Rex Sherman was well liked by the teachers and students where he attended school. He had those fine qualities of mind and heart which made him a good citizen, a fine, loyal husband and father. When his country needed him he responded and gave his life. More he could not do. His memory must not be dim in the people of Kalamazoo and the country for which he gave his life. The country which fails to honor and appreciate the struggles and sacrifices of those who fight and die for the preservation of freedom would be most unworthy. The living must cherish the freedom so dearly bought. The following is a copy of a letter which expresses the regard of his commanding officer:

U. S. S. ORESTES,  
Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, California,

February 26, 1945.

Dear Mrs. Sherman,

No doubt you are now in receipt of my letter relating to your husband's death. I regret that my letter cannot amplify the facts, but it is impossible to reveal any more information for reasons of security. However, if you have any requests do not hesitate to call upon me.

I must say that we all feel the loss of Rex very keenly for he was a fine officer and I shall never forget his calm fearless attitude upon the bridge during enemy actions. No matter how long he remained on duty, he never lacked a quip or funny joke to ease the tension. I wished that I had more officers like him.



The letter copied on the preceding page was signed by K. N. Mueller, Lieut., U. S. N. R., Commanding Officer.



Karl Edward Sherwood



K A R L   E D W A R D   S H E R W O O D

1 9 1 5   -   1 9 4 6

-o-

Lieutenant (junior grade) Karl Edward Sherwood was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 27, 1915, son of Marion Jay and Fan E. Deming Sherwood.

His father, Marion J. Sherwood, was born in Gun Plains Township, Allegan County, Michigan, March 24, 1887, on the farm which was bought from the government by his great grandfather in 1832, and which is his residence at the present time, 1947. He is a member of the faculty of Western Michigan College of Education where he has served since 1910, most of the time in the Department of Industrial Arts, but now in the new Department of Safety. His farming activities are raising Hereford cattle and breeding Black Persian sheep.

Karl's mother, Fan E. Deming Sherwood, was born in Cooper Township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan, April 3, 1888, on the farm which was her ancestral home. Her Grandfather, Dr. David E. Deming, established there the first permanent family settlement in the township in 1834, having migrated from Hinesburg, Vermont.



Karl Edward Sherwood had two sisters:

Marian Ruth, who was born on the home farm June 22, 1912, was graduated from Western Michigan College of Education in June 1934, taught physical education in the schools of Grand Haven, Wyandotte and Hastings, all in Michigan; received her Master of Arts Degree from the University of Michigan in 1942; was married December 26, 1940, to Wesley Ray Burrell, who was born August 4, 1915, was graduated from Roosevelt High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan, in 1932, and from Michigan State Normal College with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1938 and taught English and social science at Hastings, Michigan; he attended the Graduate School at the University of Michigan the summers of 1941 and 1942, and entered the armed service of the United States May 7, 1943; he was in the Ordnance Department in France until March, 1945, was sent into Germany in April, 1945; in August 1945, he was sent to Manila, the Philippine Islands, and was discharged as Technician Third Grade in November 1945, after which he resumed his teaching in Hastings, Michigan; his serial number was A. S. N. 36850399; and

Martha Louise, who was born December 25, 1921, was graduated from Western State High School in 1939, attended Western Michigan College of Education for two years and then took training as a nurse at the Bronson Methodist Hospital, where after three years she was graduated as a Registered Nurse and received the degree of Bachelor of Science from Western Michigan College of Education, the first to receive her degree under the plan whereby the Hospital became affiliated with the College; she attended the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan and in June 1945 enlisted in the Navy Nurse Corps and was commissioned an Ensign; she was on duty at the San Diego Naval Hospital until her discharge in August 1946; her serial number was 466955; September 14, 1946, she was married to Alfred Lincoln Burrell, who was born February 12, 1923, in Ypsilanti, Michigan, attended Roosevelt High School in that city, was active in football and basketball and was graduated in 1941; he then attended Michigan State Normal College where he participated in football; he then went into the Army Air Force in January 1943 and served until August 1946; his serial number was A. S. N. O-716053; he was a fighter pilot on a P-47N, based on Okinawa with the 413th Fighter Group, 34th Fighter Squadron; the young couple reside now, in 1947, at 514 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti, Michigan.



Karl Edward Sherwood, subject of this record, attended Western State Training School, the High School and Western Michigan College of Education in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Western Michigan College of Education conferred upon Karl the degree of Bachelor of Science in June 1941.

He interrupted his college course to go into business in Jackson, Michigan, but later he returned to Kalamazoo and took training as a flyer in the Department of Aviation at Western Michigan College of Education.

#### Military Experience

The record of Karl's military service as provided by the Bureau Of Naval Personnel of the Navy Department of the United States follows:



"ENLISTED SERVICE"

1942 Feb 17 Enlisted in U. S. Naval Reserve for four years.

May 27 Enlistment terminated to accept appointment as Aviation Cadet, U. S. Naval Reserve.

"OFFICER SERVICE"

1942 May 28 Accepted appointment and executed oath of office as Aviation Cadet, U. S. Naval Reserve, to rank from 15 May 1942.

May 28 Reported to Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, for active duty undergoing training.

Nov 27 Accepted appointment and executed oath of office as Ensign, A-V(N), U. S. Naval Reserve to rank from 1 November 1942.

Nov 27 Designated a Naval Aviator (Heavier-than-air).

Nov 27 Detached from Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida and ordered to Naval Air Station, Miami, Florida for temporary active duty involving flying under instruction. Rep. 2 Dec.

1943 Jan 18 Detached Naval Air Station, Miami, Florida and ordered to Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida for further active duty involving flying under instruction. Rep. 19 January.

Mar 19 Detached Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida, and ordered to Carrier Qualification Training Unit, Norfolk, Virginia for temporary active duty involving flying under instruction. Upon completion of this temporary duty to Fleet Air Detachment, Quonset Point, Rhode Island for active duty involving flying in connection with fitting out Bombing Squadron 16 and duty involving flying in that squadron when commissioned. Rep 24 April to



Bombing Squadron 16.

Jun 16 Ordered detached from Bombing Squadron 16 and to Bombing Squadron 14 for duty involving flying. Rep June 23.

Jul 15 Bombing Squadron 14 changed to Bombing Squadron TWO.

1944 Jan 1 Appointed Lieutenant (jg), A-V(N), U. S. Naval Reserve, for temporary service to rank from 1 January 1944. Alnav 1-44.

1945 Jul 17 Classification changed to S(Al) in accordance with BuPers Circular letter 298-44.

AIR MEDAL  
PURPLE HEART  
Asiatic-Pacific Area Campaign Medal - two (2) bronze stars World War II Victory Medal

Died: Presumptive - 17 January 1946. Officially reported MISSING IN ACTION as of 21 April 1944, while attached to Bombing Squadron TWO and aboard a unit of that squadron which participated in a Bombing mission on enemy installations on Wadke Island. In compliance with Section 5 of Public Law 490, as amended, death is presumed to have occurred on the 17th day of January 1946.

Place: Wadke Island (Pacific Area).

Cause: Participated in Bombing mission (Enemy Action).

Personal Characteristics

Karl was nearly six feet tall and was a decided blonde. He was of a lively disposition and possessed a keen sense of humor and was quick at repartee. But he was considerate and very sensitive



to what would not be agreeable to others.

He was thoughtful and understanding, both with his large circle of friends and with that small, close and dear companionship he had with his parents and sisters.

Karl inherited from both parents and particularly from his mother a taste for music and played the trumpet and French horn.

He was baptized in childhood into the Methodist faith and later became a full member of The First Methodist Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and sang in the children's choir.

His personality was expressed in many ways, in his eagerness to achieve, in his talent for making and keeping his friends - indeed, it can be said he was an expert in comradeship and in clean young manhood.

That his interesting moods were expressed through his participation in camp life is attested by his camp leaders. He belonged to Troop No. 20 of the First Methodist Church in Kalamazoo of the Boy Scouts of America and had Ronald Edmonds for Scout Master. Karl was a very capable Scout and was adept at archery. He showed an aptitude for mechanical work and was a superior craftsman in art metals, particularly in jewelry designing. He



was an expert marksman with the pistol, shotgun and rifle and easily excelled in whatever specialty he cared to learn.

The following is a copy of Lloyd C. Nyman's writing:

"TAPS"

"So---Karl has gone.

"The news of the loss of one of Hayo-Went-Ha's men speaks of many things. A story can be told that, though only a small segment of our lives, is nonetheless rich and happy---and, in this case melodious.

"Karl Sherwood was the camp bugler. I think it was in the summer of 1930 that young Karl first made his appearance. Perhaps he was only a camper that year, because he was at that time no more than fifteen; but he was remembered as the boy who could 'Toot that horn'. He came back for succeeding summers with his bugle and trumpet as a full fledged staff member, and contributing his ever growing knowledge of craft work to the program of the camp.

"You couldn't forget him. He was the 'fair-haired' boy, not in the sense he was unduly favored, but merely that he was a natural tow-head. Despite the efforts of the long summer sun, I never saw him appear with more than a bright pink coloring; he was just one of those unfortunates whose fair skin just wouldn't respond to the normal tanning process. If you were searching for Karl to sound 'cookie call', you just had to look for a patch of white skin and hair in the shade of the woods.

"He was endowed with a mildly puckish sort of humor that fortunately for us never gave way to the more severe forms of devilment. Fortunate, indeed, because he was so nimble and fleet of foot that we could never catch him. Like all of us, he was given to the performance of practical jokes, but they were never serious, and never the premeditated, well-prepared type. His tom-foolery was spontaneous... good for a quick laugh, and as quickly forgotten.

"His conversation, as well as his wit, was quiet. One never heard him speak above a normal tone of



voice. Of course, when he wanted to make some noise, he always had his horn, which doubtless served as the outlet for his more exuberant spirits. Even when he laughed, it was an 'inside laugh'. We would double over with mirth, and yet never a sound would escape his lips. And he could fully appreciate the humor in any situation, at which there was always a hatful at the staff table, though he was too shy to indulge in the barbs of wit that flashed thick and fast at every meal.

"He was quietly efficient in athletics and in the handicraft shop. He was possessed with a smooth agility on the tennis court, on the baseball diamond, and in the water. He was not the scrapping, arguing type of athlete. I think he enjoyed playing just for the fun of it, win or lose, though I do know that his temper could rise in the heat of contest. I believe that his only fault in this respect was his impatience at his own mistakes; but this only revealed to me his intense desire for perfection. And that is understandable in one whose coordination was natural.

"Having inherited from his father the love of handicraft, he showed increasing promise as a good, if not artistic, workman. He lacked only experience, and I venture to say that in later years he achieved the true artisan's sense of perfection. Given the tools and a mental picture of what was to be made, he could always turn out a finished product.

"But all this is background. To me, and to hundreds of others, Karl was the bugler. Peculiarly enough, he more than once confided to me that he hated that instrument, but at least it was the excuse for his presence at camp. He preferred his trumpet, and to a greater degree, his favorite, the French Horn. Then I could understand his antipathy to the bugle. From this instrument he could produce tones so sweet and rounded that it made your whole being vibrate.

"To get back to the bugle, however, like the crowing cock it was the cause for the sun to rise and the sun to set. It brought the food to the table, it raised and lowered the flag; it sent us swimming, playing, and, in fact, it ruled our entire day. Those who knew Karl at home and in school could never know him as the autocrat and dictator of a hundred lives. It was he who tumbled us grudgingly out of bed on the cold mornings, and it was he, and that



bugle, who soothed us to sleep at night.

"That bugle reflected his moods. It could be harsh and grating; it could be happy or anxious. It could laugh and bellow, and, more than once, in the silence and ceremony of 'Retreat', I have heard it giggle and stutter its laughter over some humorous incident in the ranks of the campers and leaders who were standing respectfully at attention.

"Some folks think 'Taps' is a sad and unhappy call, a sort of dirge. Perhaps this is because they only hear it at services for the soldier dead. But, they're all wrong. 'Taps' is a restful and beautiful call that is much abused and maligned if thought of only in relation to funeral moods. To me, it 'fits in'. Whether it is heard in the stillness of the summer night, or sounded over the harsh noises of the summer storm, it spreads a blanket of calm over everything. In fact, it seems to be one of the few things that can effectively quiet a group of noisy boys. Perhaps some musician can explain why this relationship of notes can produce this effect; but then, I shouldn't want to hear a scientific explanation of something quite so lovely.

"'Taps' was Karl's specialty. If he made mistakes in the bugle calls during the day, it was merely to get these faults out of his system for his last effort of the day. He liked to go out on the end of the pier, whenever the weather permitted, and send those notes floating back from the water. On a few occasions he would go out in a canoe or boat to produce an even better effect. That's why I know he loved this call. He saved up everything for this one moment; he put everything into it. Never, to my knowledge, did he break a note while playing 'Taps'.

"But, there was one experience I shall never forget. Someone suggested....or perhaps Karl suggested himself, that it would be effective to play a hymn just before 'Taps' was sounded. He knew many of the old, familiar numbers which he alternately played, but his favorite...since he played it so many times...was, 'In The Garden'. What a beautiful tone picture that made. If ever there was a garden of beauty, it was Torch Lake in the quiet evening. The multitude of bright stars formed a trellis of tiny buds over the still water. The smell of the woods was an aroma far surpassing that of cultured flower beds. The lightly flickering water was a



patch of silver petals that no earthly garden could produce in such casual artistry.

"Then, over the water came the notes of 'In the Garden', painting the still colors over the scene.

'I walked in the Garden, alone,  
While the dew was still on the roses.'

This was the shading and color of the night.

'And, He walks with me  
And he talks with me,  
And he tells me I am his own'.

Here is the sight and shape of the Gardener,  
tenderly whispering to his growing things.

'And the joy we shared  
As we tarried there,  
No other.....  
Has ever known.'

"Yes, we shared a peculiar kind of joy on those nights that no one else can ever know or understand. It was purely personal, and these words cannot tell of the moods and thoughts we experienced then.

"And I want to thank Karl for making that possible. His silver trumpet on those evenings brought new experiences....now old and cherished experiences.

"But, always, after the last notes of the hymn had died away, and after a brief moment of the most soothing silence, he would begin the familiar notes of 'Taps'. Like all great master-pieces of music, it searched the heavens and came down to rest on earth, bringing with it the stillness of the skies and the love of God."



Mrs. Marvin Madison Sharwood



C H R I S T I N A   M I L L E R   S H E R W O O D

1 8 5 3   -   1 9 4 0

-o-

Christina Miller was born in New York City March 22, 1853, daughter of Michael and Margaret Zimmerman Miller, of German descent. Michael Miller was a shoemaker.

When Christina was two years of age the family moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan, and lived with her uncle for six months, after which the father bought a lot and built a home on the corner of Winsted and Jane streets. She attended the old Union School.

She was married to Marvin Madison Sherwood June 6, 1873. Mr. Sherwood was born in Rochester, New York, January 31, 1840, son of Samuel Sherwood of English descent. His mother was of Scotch-Irish ancestry. He had a twin brother Melvin, who died at the age of two years. He had two other brothers, Calvin and Alphonso, and a sister, Belle, who married Edward Niblett, all deceased. They were all born in Rochester, New York, where a hotel and a cheese factory were run by members of the family.



While the family resided in Rochester, New York, Mr. Sherwood attended school in that city. The entire family came to Kalamazoo, Michigan, in 1855 and Marvin's father ran a hotel where the American National Bank now stands. After a short time they all bought land in Oshtemo township, where Marvin planted an orchard when he was about fifteen years old and which is still standing at the time of this writing in 1941 and a barn built about the same time is also standing. The location is about three miles west of the village of Oshtemo. After the family came to Kalamazoo Marvin continued his education in the schools of this city.

Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood started housekeeping in a residence which they purchased at 635 Second street, where they lived until his death in 1916, following several strokes, the first of which occurred in 1907.

The funeral was conducted by the Reverend Father Bishop of St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Church and burial was in Riverside cemetery.

Mrs. Sherwood continued to reside at the Second street address until 1936, when she moved to 200 Stuart avenue.

Mr. Sherwood was a wood worker and cabinet



maker and made much of the furniture in his home. For years he worked for the Kalamazoo Sled Company and later did carpentry.

He was a staunch Republican and was very active in the work of his party. He belonged to the First Presbyterian Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood were the parents of two daughters: Florence C., born November 3, 1877, was an invalid and died in 1907; Jessie M., born August 9, 1879, married Andrew Borland and became the mother of J. Sherwood Borland, who was born February 11, 1910, was graduated from Kalamazoo College, spent two years in Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, became a landscape artist and architect and civil engineer, married Florence Hawkins, of Corinth, Mississippi, and resides in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mrs. Sherwood was brought up in the Roman Catholic Church but did not continue with that church after she was fifteen years of age. She attended St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Church and was a devout, saintly woman. During the long period of her husband's illness she cared for him devotedly.

Death came to her September 24, 1940. The funeral was conducted by the Reverend Father Fowkes and burial was in Riverside cemetery.





L.F. Abingdon

Glen L. Shipman

## G L E N N   L .   S H I P M A N

Glenn L. Shipman was born in Kendall, Van Buren County, Michigan, on the 29th day of May, 1872. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Shipman. With his parents he came to Kalamazoo at nine years of age and continuously resided in Kalamazoo until his death. He attended the public schools and also the night school at Parsons Business College in Kalamazoo, being compelled to earn his own education. When very young he entered the employ of Ware and O'Brien, proprietors of one of the leading retail shoe stores in Kalamazoo, where he acted as salesman for ten years.

During this period he became extremely interested in athletic affairs being a man of wonderful physique and remarkable athletic ability. Due to his unusually affable personality he enjoyed a very large personal popularity and in 1900 was induced to enter the campaign for the office of Sheriff of Kalamazoo County on the Democratic ticket although Kalamazoo was a stronghold of Republican politics. He was elected by a large majority and was re-elected in 1902, increasing his strength in spite of the determined opposition of the other party.



He was successful in conducting the affairs of the office of Sheriff in a remarkable degree. His remarkable aptitude and energy succeeded in solving and bringing to a successful conclusion many very important cases. He retired as Sheriff in 1904 to become associated with the late G. A. Dimoc, who was the general agent for the Northwestern Life Insurance Company in this district. His success was such that upon the death of Mr. Dimoc in 1916 Mr. Shipman was selected to succeed Mr. Dimoc and he became the general agent of the Company for this territory and acted in that capacity until his death on December 18th, 1926.

On September 8th, 1897, he was married to Grace Ella Miller at her home in Vassar, Michigan. Mrs. Shipman still survives him at the time of this writing.

Mr. Shipman's success in life insurance is largely attributable to his sincere and earnest belief that in selling a life insurance policy to a client he was doing a great service and this sincerity of purpose was appreciated by those whom he served.

Mr. Shipman was a member of the Masonic Order and other fraternal organizations. He was one of the charter members of the Kiwanis Club and was the



originator of the "Shoe and Rubber Fund" which was instituted to provide for poor children at the holiday time and which has become an institution in the charitable work of the City. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church and deeply interested in the Y. W. C. A., the Y. M. C. A. and other religious and charitable institutions of the City which received his wholehearted personal and financial support.

He always maintained his interest in athletic and civic affairs and because of his well recognized sincerity and activity became a vital influence in the growth and development of the better interests of the City.

Mr. Shipman was also prominently identified with the larger business interests of the community and assisted in bringing about the organization of some of its leading financial and business institutions.

Mr. Shipman was urged on many occasions to become a candidate for important public offices, but preferred to devote his time to his private affairs, but used his influence to assist those whom he believed best qualified to serve. He was especially interested in assisting and encouraging young men of the community in their educational and business pur-



suits, and many a struggling youth has profited by his unselfish and sincere friendship.

His sudden death, while still active, was a great shock to the community and his passing was a very substantial loss to the civic and business interests of Kalamazoo.

(The foregoing story of the life of Mr. Ship-  
was written by a friend)



Mr. & Mrs. John H. Shirley



Mr. H. Shirley



Mrs John G. Shirley  
Charles G. Crooks



M R . & M R S .  
J O H N H S H I R L E Y  
1 8 6 7 - 1 9 3 9  
-o-

John H. Shirley was born in Texas township, Kalamazoo county, Michigan, March 6, 1867, a son of John and Hannah Russell Shirley.

In 1887, John H. Shirley was married to Bertha Agnes McCormick, who was born February 22, 1871, a daughter of William H. and Elizabeth Delina Bradley McCormick. William H. McCormick was a Civil War veteran and the father of a Spanish War veteran.

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Shirley were the parents of a son Leon, who died in 1918; a son Lester, who was overseas in World War I and now, 1941, resides at Hampton Lake; a daughter, Mrs. George White of Comstock, Michigan. They are the grand-parents of Shirley and John White of Comstock; George A. White, Naval Air Force, North Island, California; and Mrs. Charles Adams, of Kalamazoo. They also have one great-grandchild, Shirley Ann Adams.

For several years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Shirley resided on a farm in Texas township. He took up carpentry, which he followed in that same region. In 1905 he became the superintendent of the



A. M. Todd farm at Mentha. He invented an onion topper and a mint planter and a lath-making machine.

In 1919 he and Mrs. Shirley moved to Kalamazoo, where he entered the building and contracting business. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at their home 1014 South Park street in 1937.

He was a 32nd degree Mason and had been a member of Masonic lodge No. 22 since 1914. He was also a member of the Rose Croix degree team of the Masonic order and for some time was active in the independent order of Odd Fellows, having at one time served on the board of trustees.

Death came to Mr. Shirley April 3, 1939.

The funeral was conducted under the auspices of the Masonic order and burial was in the Texas township cemetery.



Vernon Lee Stuart



V E R N O N   L E E   S H U A R T

1 9 2 3   -   1 9 4 4

-o-

Vernon Lee Shuart was born in Kalkaska county, Michigan, January 27, 1923, son of George W. Shuart and Violet Shuart, of mixed ancestry. Vernon had three sisters: Venita, who married Durward Smith and lives in Kalamazoo, Michigan; Betty and Barbara, who also reside in Kalamazoo. The family moved to Roscommon and made their home there and Vernon attended the high school.

In 1942 Vernon made a trip to Kalamazoo, Michigan, to visit his sister Venita, who was employed here, and he decided to make Kalamazoo his home.

He found employment at the Riverside Foundry, where he worked less than a year, until he was called into the Armed Services of the United States. He had tried to enlist in the Marines, but the quota was full.

Marriage

August 22, 1942, he was married to Miss Barbara Jean Ballett of Kalamazoo, who was born in this city December 16, 1923, daughter of Wesley J. and Lucy Miller Ballett, who were also the parents of:



Dorothy, who married Russell Schelb and they became  
the parents of <sup>Sharon Lee,</sup> Russell, Jr., and Cheryl; Nadine, who  
married Earl Kendall and became the mother of Timmy;  
Millicent, who married William Kotrba; and Janice, all  
residing in Kalamazoo.

Barbara attended the Burke and Lincoln grade  
schools and then entered Central High School. After  
one year in Central she attended the Richland High  
School, from which she was graduated in 1942.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Lee Shuart began house-  
keeping on Wallace avenue in Kalamazoo, where they  
resided until he left for the Armed Services

February 23, 1943. <sup>✓</sup>

#### Military Experience

He was inducted at Camp Grant, Illinois, and was  
then sent to Camp Wolters, Texas, until May 18, 1943,  
when he was shipped overseas and stationed at Hawaii.  
From there he was sent into combat and lost his life  
on Saipan in the Marianas July 8, 1944.

On <sup>✓</sup>, a daughter was born to Mr. and  
Mrs. Shuart, but the father never saw the lovely  
little Judith Ann.

#### Personal Characteristics

Vernon was five feet eleven inches tall, of  
slender build, athletic in type. He liked music and  
played the harmonica and the guitar. He also liked



to sing and enjoyed hunting. As a civilian he enjoyed long walks, but probably got more of that than enough while training.

Vernon liked to read and was somewhat self-educated. He liked to learn things and had several skills of which he was proud. He was especially apt in a machine shop and liked to tinker with automobiles. He accumulated extra parts which he would sometimes loan.

He had dark brown wavy hair, hazel eyes, olive skin, and stood straight with shoulders back and head up. He was fond of children and longed to come home and see his new daughter but was denied that pleasure by the exigencies of war.

Vernon Lee Shuart's name will long be cherished by the citizens of this community as one who did his duty unflinchingly and laid down his life for the preservation of freedom.

The following excerpts of letters received by Mrs. Shuart show the high regard in which he was held:

Captain Lawrence J. O'Brien wrote from Saipan - "Your husband's platoon was pushing forward when he was hit by enemy rifle fire and killed instantly. His courageous work was outstanding under circumstances where courage was the rule rather than the exception. He is buried in the Army Cemetery."



Harold Brewer wrote -

"He passed away July 8 about 2:45 P. M. He was shot through the head while trying to save one of his buddies. I was at his side when he passed away;"

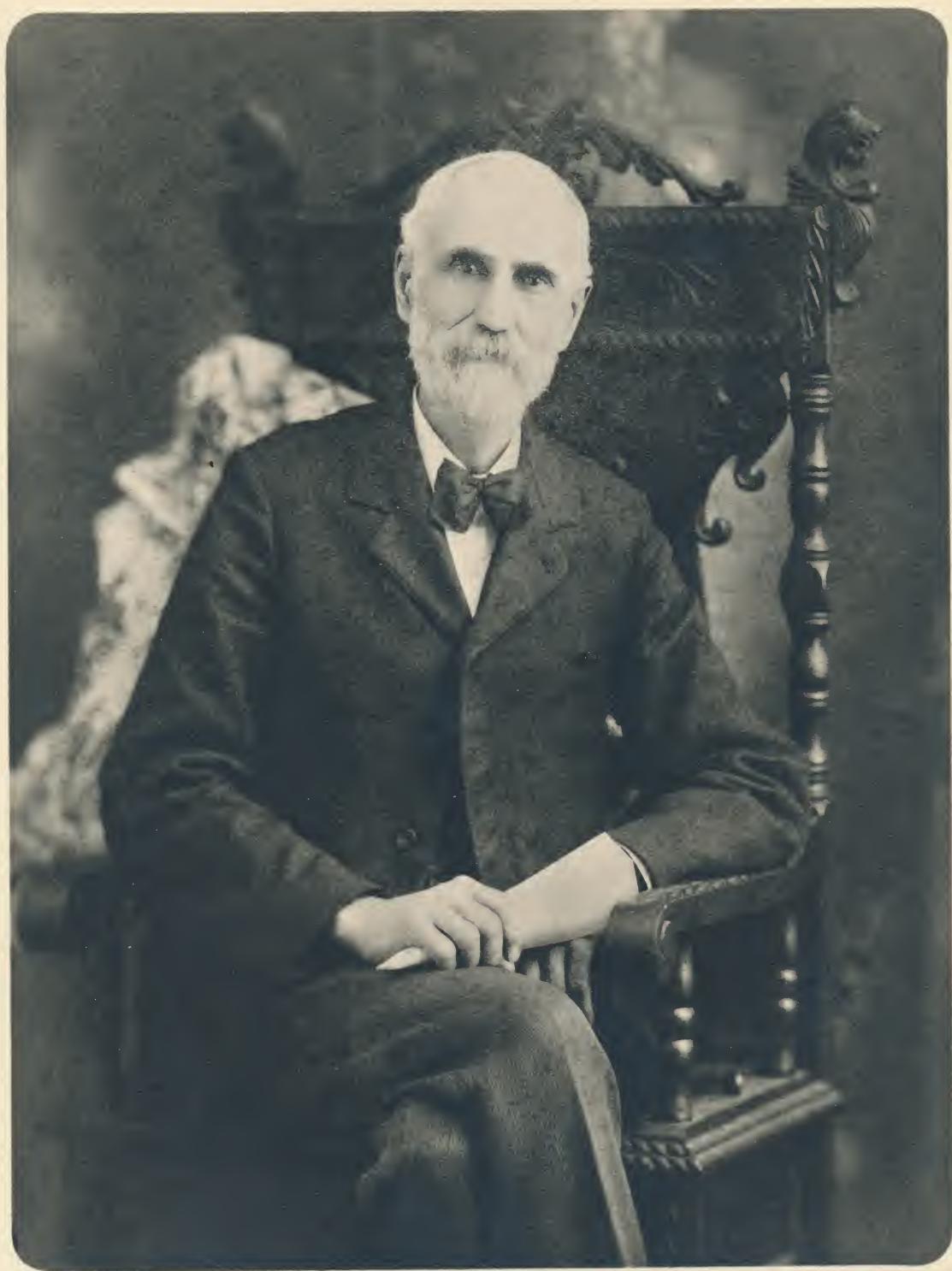
George D. Hall wrote -

"Vernon was nothing to me in relations, but I loved him as a brother."

(Written in October 1944)

- 1000' above ground surface  
- 1000' above ground surface

- surface 1240' above  
- 1000' above ground surface  
- 1000' above ground surface



W. F. Bishop

Wm. F. Bishop

William P. Sidnam



Mary K. Sidman

W. S. Bishop



W I L L I A M   P.   S I D N A M

M A R Y   N.   S I D N A M

Mary N. Upjohn Sidnam was born in Richland, Michigan, June 18, 1840, the daughter of Uriah Upjohn and Maria Mills Upjohn. She was the second child born in this Upjohn family. The others were: Helen M. who married Mr. Kirkland; Helen practiced medicine in Kalamazoo for 20 years; Alice, who married the Rev. Wright Barrett; Henry U. who practiced medicine in Kalamazoo for a number of years; Virginia, who died at the age of twenty-five; Amelia, who married Mr. Campbell, M. D. and lived in Akron, Ohio - she died at the age of thirty; Sarah, who married the Rev. John Redpath, a Presbyterian missionary in Northern Michigan; Ida, who married Mr. Hayward, a civil engineer who died in the government service; W. E. Upjohn, whose life story appears elsewhere in this collection; an infant who died unnamed; Fred L. who died in New York and James T. Upjohn, whose life story appears elsewhere in this collection.

The old home was located on the West side of the Galesburg road about sixty rods South of Richland, where the family resided until 1868.



Mary Upjohn attended the Richland Seminary, which at that time was a school of considerable standing. She also attended the Presbyterian Church to which members of the family belonged.

In the early '60's Mary attended the Baptist College at Kalamazoo, later named Kalamazoo College.

About 1867 Dr. Uriah Upjohn purchased a fine residence for nine members of the family of children in the city of Ann Arbor, where they attended the University of Michigan and other public schools and where chaperoned by their father's sister. Each of the young people performed the appointed daily tasks in the care of the home besides attending classes.

Mary and her sister Amelia were the first women to take the course in Pharmacy and the first to be graduated from the course. Their fellow classmen were twenty young men. Dr. Angell presented them with their diplomas the first time he functioned in that capacity as President of the University.

In the fall of 1867 the father purchased a farm of sixty acres in the West edge of Galesburg so that the family would be located on a railroad and have convenient transportation to and from Ann Arbor where the young people were in school.

In 1871 the family moved to Richland. The older



children had completed their education. The father and Henry set up in medical practice.

Mary was married to William P. Sidnam in September of 1871. Mr. Sidnam was a graduate of Albion College and superintendent of schools in Houghton, Michigan. During the Civil War he was a soldier in the Union army.

After some years of teaching Mr. and Mrs. Sidnam moved to a farm which they owned at Delton, Michigan, where they lived until about 1880, when they moved to Kalamazoo and Mrs. Sidnam assumed the care and responsibility of her father's home. Her mother had died some time before. Mr. Sidnam became an employee of the Upjohn Company. He was an active and prominent member of the First Methodist Episcopal Church and Mrs. Sidnam heartily joined with him.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidnam were the parents of four children: William N. of Kalamazoo; Mrs. Alice Childs of New York; Mrs. Helen Puffer of St. Louis, Missouri. One died in infancy.

Mr. Sidnam died Sunday, October 31, 1915. Dr. W. M. Puffer conducted the funeral service using the text: "Enoch walked with God and was not, for God took him.

Mrs. Sidnam died April 3, 1936 at 9:30 A. M.



At the time of her death, Mrs. Sidnam was the oldest living woman graduate of the University of Michigan and only two graduates of that university older than she were living. She was the last of the family of Uriah Upjohn to pass away. Besides those mentioned as children of Mrs. Sidnam in this article she is survived by the following grand children: Jane and Allen Sidnam, Kalamazoo College students and Verne H. Sidnam, a Detroit architect; William, Virginia and Barbara Puffer, of Missouri; and Mrs. Lauriston Lake, New York City, whose daughter, Jocelyn Lake is Mrs. Sidnam's only great-gandchild.

The funeral was conducted in Truesdale Chapel by the Reverend William C. Perdew, pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal Church Monday, April 6, 1936. Mrs. Sidnam was the oldest member of that church.



Jacob Sikkens



J A C O B J S I K K E N G A

1 8 8 9 - 1 9 4 3

-o-

Jacob J. Sikkenga was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 8, 1889, the son of John Sikkenga and Jennie DeBatt Sikkenga, both of Holland parentage.

Jacob had three sisters:

Dena, who married William Vanden Berg, became the mother of Richard and Dorothy and resides in Kalamazoo, Michigan;

Henrietta, who married John C. Vanden Berg, became the mother of Virginia and Jack and resides in Fort Wayne, Indiana;

Olive, who died in infancy.

Jacob J. Sikkenga attended the Woodward School in Kalamazoo and after school always helped his father in the grocery store which his father owned. After finishing high school Jacob continued in the store, which he eventually owned and operated.

He was twice married: (1) to Addie Vanden Berg and after her death; (2) to Jeanette Dieterman, who was born in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, March 17, 1905, daughter of Harm and Theresa Bekkering Pinkster. Jeanette was born on a freight boat owned by her father and on which the family lived. Her early marriage was to Monzo Dieterman, who passed away



October 10, 1930, leaving also a daughter, Joyce Lorraine, born .

To the marriage of Jacob J. Sikkenga and Jeanette Dieterman Sikkenga one son, John Herman, was born , in Kalamazoo.

Mr. Sikkenga had adopted Joyce, the child of his wife's first marriage.

Jacob J. Sikkenga died of a heart attack at his home 2615 South Westnedge avenue January 25, 1943. Funeral services were conducted by the Reverend A. Van Zante, pastor of the Trinity Reformed Church, and burial was in Reverside cemetery.

In personal appearance, Mr. Sikkenga was six feet two inches tall and was of medium build, with black hair and hazel eyes.

He had been a member of the Second Reformed Church in Kalamazoo and was a member of the Consistory. Upon completion of the home he built at 2615 South Westnedge avenue, Mr. and Mrs. Sikkenga became members of the Trinity Reformed Church and he was vice president of the Consistory when he passed away. He also served as president of the Brotherhood and for many years he taught in the Sunday school, always being given a class of adolescent boys, the age with whom he had much



influence in directing toward better living.

Mr. Sikkenga not only held positions of trust in his church, but he was faithful to all its services. He was especially gifted in public prayers. He had made a study of church doctrine and few men of his denomination were as well informed on the tenets of his church as was he.

He was also active in civic circles and was elected to membership on the Board of the Kalamazoo Home For The Aged.

Mr. Sikkenga was of a quiet, unassuming manner, but genial and well liked by the men with whom he associated. He appreciated good literature, kept informed on current topics and was especially fond of church music. In every contact he made, his influence for good was felt.

Death came to him in his prime, but the life of this good man of God goes on in the lives of the young men who were helped by his teaching and in the hearts of his family and friends.

The foregoing was written in 1943.



Gerald Harry Sillman 29



G E R A L D   H E N R Y   S I L L M A N

1 9 1 7   -   1 9 4 3

-o-

Gerald Henry Sillman was born in Cook, Nebraska, April 1, 1917, and had a sister, Betty Jane, who was born November 28, 1919.

The family moved from Nebraska to Illinois and then to Iowa, and when Gerald was twelve years of age they came to Michigan and made their home in Kalamazoo where Gerald and his sister attended, first, the Lincoln School and later, the Washington School.

When Gerald was in the middle of his senior year in Central High School, Kalamazoo, he quit school and went to work for the Fuller Manufacturing Company for two years. He then was employed by the Sutherland Paper Company for one and one-half years.

Early in 1942, he was called into the armed service of his country, assigned to the Signal Corps and sent to Camp Crowder, Missouri. From there he was sent to Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, and later to Camp Barkley, Texas, where he was an instructor of amplitude modulated radio. He took an advanced course in frequency modulation radio in New York City and a four months course as radio technician at Fort



Monmouth. He was advanced rapidly in the service until he became Technical Sergeant and was made an instructor in radar.

Gerald Henry Sillman was mechanically minded from his youth, when as a young lad at home he was always busy building radios or studying the mechanism.

Gerald's mother, who is now, 1943, Mrs. T. E. Thornton, 1429 Jefferson Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan, and his sister, Miss Betty, journeyed to Lexington, Kentucky, in May 1943, to visit Gerald prior to his leaving for overseas duty. While he was driving them around the city, an accident occurred, which resulted in the death of this young soldier May 29, 1943, the day following the accident.

Gerald's home life had been made a very pleasant one by his mother and her husband, T. E. Thornton, a driver for the City Bus Lines, who for fourteen years had dearly loved the boy.

In personal appearance Gerald was five feet, nine and one-half inches tall, medium in build, with blonde hair and deep blue eyes. He enjoyed hunting and other clean sports. He was a popular boy and a fine type of young manhood with a Methodist background and attendance at a Methodist Sunday school.

His Colonel spoke of his brilliant mind and the bright future which might have been his. In a letter



to his mother his commanding officer praised him highly as a most valuable man, "worth six others."

Gerald Henry Sillman spent his short life in his chosen field of radio and was applying himself diligently to the task of becoming highly useful to his country in its time of need. His memory will be cherished as a kindly, patient, dependable young man, highly trained to serve his country with technical skill. He belongs to the company of young men in whom the people of this country take great pride.



Simpson M. E. Church



S I M P S O N  
M E T H O D I S T   E P I S C O P A L  
C H U R C H

-o-

The Simpson Methodist Episcopal Church had its origin in the Central Mission Methodist Episcopal Sunday School at the corner of Park and Ransom streets started October 1, 1882. The following March regular prayer meetings were held and in September 1883 Sunday evening preaching services were conducted.

Soon the need for more adequate facilities was apparent and in May 1884 a fund was created for the purpose of erecting a chapel. At first the fund was made up of birth-day pennies. Behold how great an oak from a little acorn grew! Along with the pennies there must have been contributed something else which helped to make the foundation of the church very secure.

When a location was sought the fund created by birth-day pennies was insufficient, so a tea was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Phelps, from which one hundred and fifty dollars was realized. The addition of some generous contributions



from a few individuals made possible the purchase of the lot on North street September 4, 1885.

Under the direction of able committees a building was soon started and in the Gazette that fall was an item, "The new Chapel which the Methodists are building in North street at the head of Elm street promises to be a neat little house of worship." The frame building was dedicated February 21, 1886, by the Reverend D. F. Barnes, D. D., assisted by the Reverend A. M. Gould, pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, also the Reverends J. D. White, Shenstone and Pengelly. Dr. Barnes was at that time the presiding elder of the Kalamazoo district.

On May 7, 1886, the Simpson Methodist Episcopal Church was formally organized with nineteen members in full connection and ten probationers. Among these charter members were Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Brundage and Mr. and Mrs. James Britton.

The name Simpson was suggested by Mr. James Britton in honor of Bishop Matthew Simpson.

In the membership of this church was Mrs. Crux, in whose father's house the first Methodist service in Kalamazoo County was conducted, and Mrs. Pengelly widely known as a temperance worker and at whose death the Liquor Dealers Association sent a cluster of white roses with a card bearing the inscription:



"Mrs. Pengelly was an enemy to our business. She fought in the open and was an honorable opponent". Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Davis were transferred from First Church and he was superintendent of the Sunday school for several years until he left to work in the Damon Methodist Episcopal Church. He was succeeded by Frank J. Britton who superintended the Sunday school for twenty-eight years. Dora Davis went out from this church to teach in Bulgaria and five young men went into the Christian ministry: T. H. Leamon, O. W. Carr, Guy Hawley, Emil Rice and Floyd H. Zerbe.

In 1893, under the pastoral leadership of Robert A. Wright, the Chapel was enlarged to meet the needs of a growing congregation, and, in the summer of 1911, the present building was erected and dedicated by Bishop William A. Quayle October 15, 1911, during the pastorate of W. H. Irwin.

The following pastors have served the Simpson Church: S. C. Davis, 1886; E. T. Lumber, 1886-89; E. V. Armstrong, 1889-91; J. A. Sprague, 1891-92; R. A. Wright, 1892-94; C. W. East, 1894-97; C. G. Thomas, 1897-1900; J. B. Pinckard, 1900-05; R. S. McGregor, 1905-08; W. H. Irwin, 1908-12; R. W. Merrill, 1912-14; W. I. Cogshall, 1914-16; F. M. Taylor, 1916-20; A. A. Geiger, 1920-23; W. E. Doty, 1923-26; H. W. Ellinger, 1926-35.



The present pastor is George A. Osborne, whose service began in September 1935. In June 1936, the fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the church was celebrated, Bishop Edgar Blake and District Superintendent Henry W. Ellinger participating. The membership numbers 413. The church building is valued at \$25,000 and the parsonage at \$4,000. The Sunday school enrolment is 602.

The above was written December 5, 1936, from material provided by the Simpson Church historian, Miss Nina Glover, and the pastor.





Mrs. Smrasdo Skoubas

## S M R A G D O   S K O U B E S

-o-

One of the most interesting families of Greek Americans living in Kalamazoo is the Skoubes family. When they emigrated from Greece, the father, Chris, with his wife, Smragdo, lived at first in Colorado, where Chris worked as foreman with the railroad.

The children of this family, Peter, Paul, and Demetra had found the city of Kalamazoo, Michigan, to their liking and made their home in this city. Nicholas, the youngest boy, served in the first World War and settled in California.

After the death of the father, Chris, Mrs. Skoubes came to Kalamazoo to make her home with her daughter.

Her oldest son, Peter, was born in Greece in 1906. In 1920 he married Eftimia Kazazes and became the father of: Kala, who married Nicholas Bachakes and became the mother of Pauline and resides in Owosso, Michigan; Chris, now, in 1943, serving in the United States Army; John and Sophie. Peter Skoubes is the affable and popular owner of the "Olympia", a confectionery and ice cream store.

Paul married Christina Langes and became the



father of Ethel, Smragdo and Aphrodine; Demetra married Peter Kostakis and became the mother of James, Thomas, George and Louis, all residing in Kalamazoo.

Nicholas Skoubes is unmarried and resides in California; a sister, Kirago, became Mrs. Juris and the mother of Gus and Peter and is deceased.

On Mothers' Day, 1943, the Greek Girls' Choir of the Greek Orthodox Church sponsored an unique program, at the Young Women's Christian Association building, honoring Mrs. Smragdo Skoubes as representing Greek motherhood, both in the United States and in Nazi-held Greece. More than one hundred fifty persons were present at this first occasion of its kind.

Mrs. Skoubes is considerably more than ninety years of age, but, like other women, laughs at the questioner seeking to discover what year she was born.

A tribute to mothers was given by her grand daughter, Ethel Skoubes, who presented her with a bouquet. Many talented young people of Greek parentage took part in the program and guests included Americans of Greek descent from surrounding communities as well as Greek soldiers from Fort Custer.



Kalamazoo has no more helpful citizens in war time or peace time than its loyal, hard-working, efficient Greek-Americans.





William A. Slager

1836-1937 (ae 101)  
WILLIAM A. SLAGER

-o-

William A. Slager lived within one year of a half century in Holland and more than a half century in the United States. He was born in Stedum, the Netherlands, May 3, 1836, the son of Stella Newhouse and Albert Slager, who was also born in Stedum.

William Slager was reared in the village of Stedum and attended school there. Later he engaged in farming, which has been his life work.

In December 1863 William A. Slager married Rena Schilthous and they became the parents of the following children: Stella, born March 4, 1864, and died four and one-half years later; John W., born April 16, 1867, married Grace Cramer and resides at South Comstock, Michigan; Albert, born September 18, 1881, and later deceased.

In the year 1885, William Slager came with his family to Chicago, where he lived for one year, and then came to Kalamazoo and lived there until he moved to South Comstock in 1888, where he has since resided.

Mr. Slager has nine grand children and seventeen great grandchildren, 10 boys and 7 girls, the oldest of whom is 13. His wife died in 1906. One grand-



son, William is employed with the Upjohn Company and another, Albert, is engaged in the lumber business in the firm of Poortenga and Slager, in South Comstock. A grand daughter, Stella, is a nurse in Grand Rapids. The other grandchildren are Raymond, Mrs. Jacob Dey, Mrs. Dena Schaap, John, Jacob, and Rena Slager.

William A. Slager is a member of the Christian Reformed Church.

In the photograph which accompanies this sketch Mr. Slager is seated in the chair which was presented to him in 1932 at the Knickerbocker picnic for being the oldest person present. At the 1933 picnic he received a Beauty Rest mattress for the same reason.

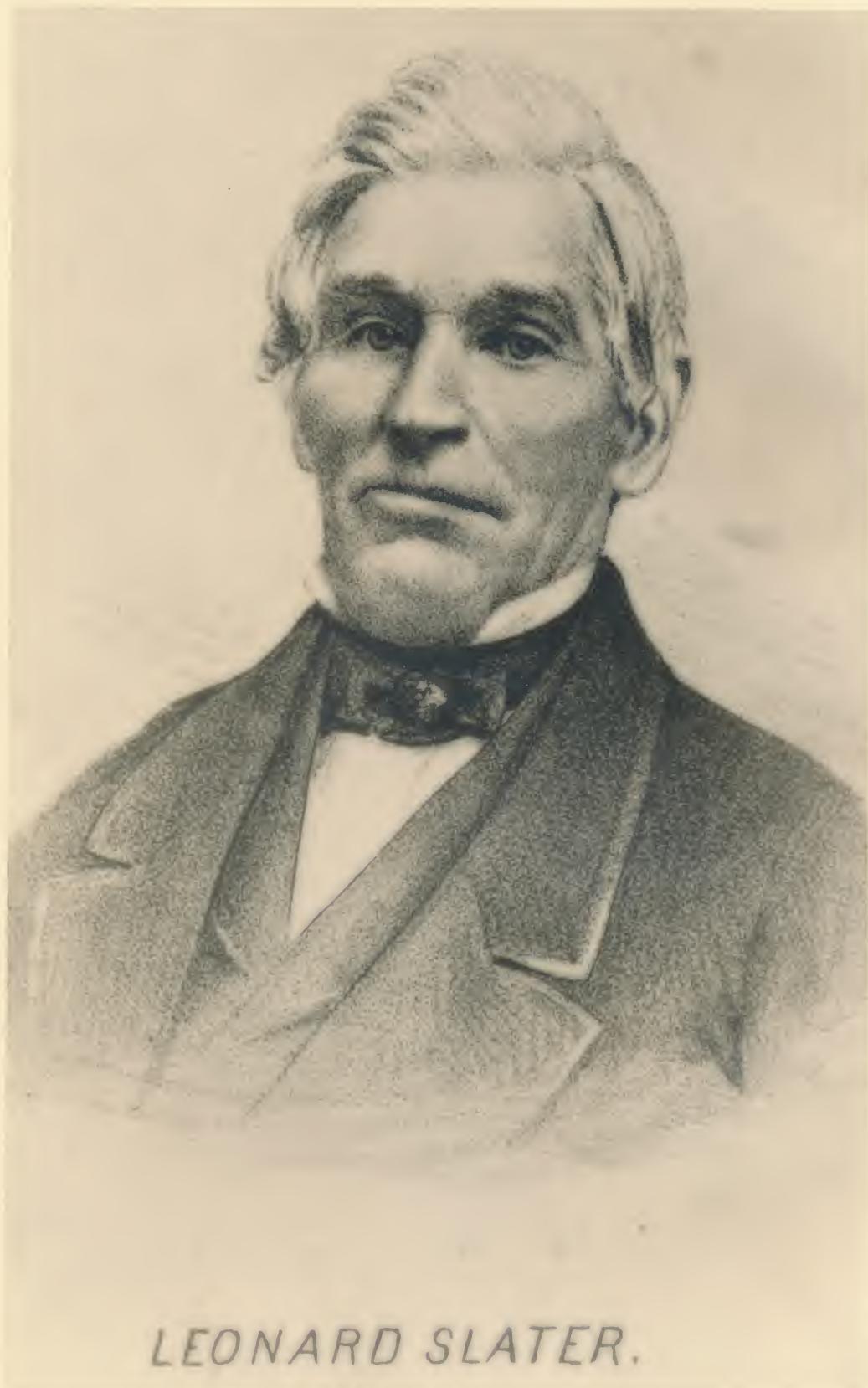
Mr. Slager is one of the men who extended celery culture in the lowlands about Kalamazoo and deserves credit for having lived a long and useful life.

The above was written in 1936.

DIED July 11 1937  
BURIED Comstock Cemetery



Leonard Slater



LEONARD SLATER.

## THE OLD SLATER MISSION

The following is copied from the Hastings Banner dated May 6, 1925.

The Banner has related the fact that Mrs. Warren Fisher, whose home is near Cressey and on whose farm were some of the buildings of the Potawatamie Indians, who attended the Slater Mission, had requested the supervisors to make an appropriation for a monument or marker for Chief Noonday.

In this connection it seemed to us as if we ought to reproduce a paper read by the late Mrs. Henry Hoyt, of Kalamazoo, on "Leonard Slater, Missionary to the Indians, Pioneer Preacher in the Early Days of Michigan, Containing also Accounts of Chief Noonday."

Mrs. Hoyt was personally acquainted with Leonard Slater and knew Chief Noonday. She was the daughter of William Lewis, famed in the early days of Barry county as the landlord of the Yankee Springs Tavern, which in its day had as wide a reputation for hospitality as has the Pantlind Hotel in Grand Rapids at the present time.

Following is Mrs. Hoyt's paper, read before the Barry County Pioneer Society at its June meeting in 1910, together with some illustrations which the BANNER prepared at that time:

A modest slab, bearing the simple record of the birth and death of Rev. Leonard Slater, marks a mound of earth in Riverside cemetery in Kalamazoo, and to the casual observer, it expresses nothing of great interest. However, to the few descendants of the reverend man, and to the still fewer friends



who recall him, this mound holds a memory especially dear.

In the early history of Michigan, the name of Leonard Slater was a familiar one, and up to the time of his death, in 1866, he was looked upon as a man of marked prominence. As a missionary to the Indians of this state, and as a man of sturdy character, which served as an example to many in the days when Michigan was in the process of making, he gained a name worthy to be handed down.

He was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, November 16, 1802. His mother was Scotch and his father, Peter Slater, was one of the participants in the "Boston Tea Party" in which disguised as an Indian, he did his part in emptying the tea into Boston Harbor.

The Slater family emigrated from England at an early day. A brother of Peter Slater learned the cotton spinners' trade of the celebrated Arkwright in Lancashire, England, and being denied the right of bringing machinery to this country, set up from memory what was necessary to the successful running of a cotton mill. This man established the first Sunday school and the first Bible class and also the first Grammar school in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.



With an ancestry in whom courage and perseverance were dominating principles, we would naturally look for like qualities in their descendants, and that Leonard Slater inherited their spirit of patriotism is clearly shown in the last public act of his life in offering his services to the Christian Commission during the war of the rebellion, and without pay, going into hospital work in Tennessee and this, too, in his declining years after the strenuous life he had theretofore lived. To this spirit of patriotism so clearly shown was joined a broad humanitarianism which early caused him to study for the ministry, with an earnest desire of being sent out as a missionary. Mr. Slater studied under the Reverend Jonathan Going, and at the Baptist Triennial Convention, held in Boston in 1826, was appointed missionary to Western Indians. A few weeks after receiving the appointment, he was united in marriage, May 20, 1826 to Mary French Ide, of Claremont, New Hampshire, a woman greatly beloved and respected, who proved a noble helpmate indeed, bearing patiently the trials of pioneer life and winning the love of all, savages and white settlers alike.

Bidding farewell to parents and friends, the young couple started soon after on this mission and



their bridal trip was made through the wild woods of Michigan's territory and the latter part of the journey, that is from Detroit to Niles, was made on horseback, through an unbroken wilderness, by following an Indian trail and guided only by blazed trees. Their goods were sent around the lakes to Grand Haven and from Grand Haven to Grand Rapids in a rowboat. When the boxes finally reached them they were badly damaged and stained by water.

Arriving in the course of their journey at what is now Kalamazoo and finding no bridge across its river, they forded it at the old fording place below the hill, whereon then stood the old Rix Robinson trading post and where now lies Riverside cemetery. From this elevation they caught their first view of the Kalamazoo valley as it lay in all its virgin loveliness, an unbroken wilderness of trees and shrubs, with the broad river winding in and out below. They were charmed with the view, and here, at the request of Mr. Slater, his body lies today, his faithful wife and daughter Emily beside him.

Proceeding on their journey and coming in sight of their destination, the Carey Mission, whereon now stands the city of Niles, two Indians came running from a wigwam with loaded muskets and fired them into



the air. Such a salute on their arrival was quite startling, but it was explained that the firing was because an Indian had just died and this done to make the departed spirit know that it must not come back to trouble the living. They remained but a short time at the Carey Mission, and the spring of 1827 saw them settled at the Thomas Mission, situated on what is now the present site of the city of Grand Rapids, and here for the next nine years, they labored very successfully among the Ottawa Indians, having in charge about one hundred and fifty families. In the woods all about them were twice or three times as many more. Lewis Cass, then Territorial Governor, took a great interest in both the Carey and the Thomas Missions, commending the zeal and faithfulness of those in charge.

Mr. Slater's labors were not confined to the Indians alone. He served in several capacities in the new settlement. He was made a Justice of the Peace and he was also the first postmaster in Grand Rapids, receiving his appointment from President Jackson, December 22, 1832 and serving as such for the next four years.

Until 1833 there were no white persons in the Grand River Valley except such as were connected with



the mission, or with the Indian trade. Where now stands the flourishing city of Grand Rapids, there were in the early days two Indian villages, known as the upper and lower villages, the upper being presided over by an Ottawa chief Nono-qua-he-zich by name, commonly called "Noonday," a friendly, industrious Indian, who always worked for the good of his people. He was among the first to obtain favor among white settlers and, being a man of excellent habits, was of great assistance to them. He was of fine physique and stood fully six feet in height, was well proportioned, was noble in appearance and possessed great muscular strength. He fought with the British in the war of 1812. It was generally believed that his hand applied the torch at the burning of Buffalo. This, however, has been disputed, but certain it is that he took an active part in that memorable battle, and his savage nature led him to do acts which in after life he greatly deplored. It is a well known fact that both the Chippewa and Ottawa tribes fought with the English in the war of 1812. Noonday witnessed the killing of Tecumseh at the battle of the Thames. He was on his right when he fell, stricken by the hand of Colonel Richard M. Johnson, of Kentucky, afterwards vice-president. When asked



how he knew it was Colonel Johnson he said, "General Cass took me to see Great Father VanBuren at Washington. I went to the great wigwam and there I saw the same man that killed Tecumseh. I looked him in the face and said, 'Kine kin a poot Tecumseh?' That is, "You kill Tecumseh?" which fact was not denied by Colonel Johnson. To get a history of any Indian who fought on the side of the British has ever been a difficult task, but through Mr. Slater's assistance several facts were gained from "Noonday." The statement was published as a fact in the Century Magazine of June 1885.

Chief Noonday was quite advanced in years when the missionaries came to Grand Rapids, but he made them very welcome. He showed them the Salt Springs and the Gypsum rocks, probably those at Plaster Creek, from whose sources have come so much of the city's wealth and industry, quietly remarking of the Springs: "That the spirits fed them." Noonday was among Mr. Slater's first converts and proved valuable help to him in many ways. When he was baptized in the Grand River, hundreds of Indians gathered to witness the rite, which was new to them. Indians love a contest of any kind, and when they saw Mr. Slater and Noonday in the water together,



they thought a tussle was impending, and when Mr. Slater put Noonday under the water, the banks rang with "Tah Yah! Tah Yah! Kitchee mokomon nee tum," (Hurrah! Hurrah! White man get him down first.)

The last trial ever held under Indian law was in the fall of 1840 near Middleville, in Barry county, when it fell to Noonday to try a man, Louis Genereau, of his own tribe, for murdering his wife. He found him guilty and pronounced sentence of banishment upon him and confiscation of property. This sentence was executed in strict accordance with the decision of Noonday and acquiesced in by all of his tribe. This man who also furnished the first criminal case in Kent County Circuit Court, was later sent to Jackson prison. Little by little the Indians yielded their rights to the white man. Noonday foresaw their destiny and his predictions have been fulfilled. An inferior race must yield to a superior one who will have no respect for any rights except their own.

It may be well in passing to say of Noonday that he remained true to his faith in Christianity, and when the mission was removed to Prairieville in 1836 he accompanied the others, and could always be depended on by Mr. Slater for assistance. His



perfect knowledge of the Indian nature, coupled with a sagacity and forethought, which had caused him to rank high among them as chief, showed him clearly what was needed for the Indian at the time, and also what was required of him after abandoning Indian habits. He had no children of his own, but adopted several. He died in 1855 or 1856 at the advanced age of ninety-eight, and was buried beside his wife, near where the old mission stood. A plain marble slab once marked the spot where the noble chieftain lay, but that has been demolished and nothing now remains to mark his burial place, and the ground above him has been ploughed over.

The memory of Chief Noonday is worthy of a monument. Who is willing to lead in seeing that a suitable one is erected to his memory before even that is lost?

The Slaters settled on the east bank of the Grand river near the island with Indian wigwams all about them, and here there was born to them on August 12, 1827, Sarah Emily Slater, the first white child born in Grand Rapids. As soon as Noonday heard of the event he came to the house with his wife, Som-on-o-que, making great rejoicing and praising Manitou (God) who had shown such favor to his tribe



in bringing them a white babe, and he gave her a name "Som-on-o-que" which was also his wife's name, and all the Indians called her the "Little Som-on-o-que." On account of the great demands made upon the mother the babe was given into the hands of an Indian woman to nurse and was treated much as an Indian mother would treat her own, slinging her across her back. She was carried in one position so long that the child's head grew imperfect and a partial paralysis ensued, bringing on a spasmodic action of the eye. This was a grief to them all and to the young mother especially. Two other children came to them in this home, George and Frances, and these three were the first white children born in Grand Rapids. Three more were born in Barry county, making a family of six children, but of them all none could take the place with the Indians of the "Little "Som-on-o-que." She soon learned to babble their words in her childish voice. Indeed, to such an extent had the older children taken up the Indian tongue that they were sent to their relatives in the east to be taught to speak their own language. On the journey they spoke and sang freely in the Indian tongue, much to the entertainment of the people they met in making the journey.



The little Emily was allowed to wander at will, and one day took her way to the river bank with a new tin cup in her hand, and being thirsty, thought to help herself from the river. She found that the little cup would float and she let it go. It floated out on the clear water up to the mission house. The mother, seeing it, called for the child but no childish voice responded. She thought of the river; oh the river; the rapids! The mother flew towards the rapids and she saw on the water the little blonde head, the curls just beginning to turn with the stream; one minute more - the flight of the mother one moment delayed and the little Emily would have been beyond recall.

When Emily was a child she began teaching the younger Indian children, for a child may teach what it knows as well as an older person. How fast or how much they learned we may not know, but we do know that her faithfulness and devotion to the work continued as long as did the mission.

Mrs. Slater found it difficult to manage according to the New England customs, as she had herself been taught. She instructed daily in the mission school and for their own benefit, taught the Indian girls to assist her in the housekeeping but, some-



times without warning, their nomadic instincts would seize them and they would suddenly vanish like a flock of deer, away to some berry swamp or woods or lake, leaving the mistress of the house to knead into loaves a great trough of dough and do other necessary work. They had no more idea of the constraining properties of domestic life than the squirrels that chattered in the trees around the mission house. It would be a difficult matter for us to frame excuses for these children of the forest, who heard in the sighing of the wind through the trees the gentle voice of the Manitou, and his voice raised in anger in the roar of the tornado or the thunder.

The confidence of the Indian is gained slowly. Their stolidity is for the most part assumed, in the presence of the white man. He is communicative if he thinks you are his friend, but if confidence is betrayed, there is a lapsing back into sullen distrust.

Mr. Slater labored to attract the Indians. Once their confidence gained, they believe implicitly as do children. If through weakness of body and mind they drank whiskey, they still believed the truth and deplored their fault. There was an United States statute forbidding the sale or the giving of



liquor to the Indians. Mr. Slater found and emptied many barrels of this commodity upon the ground at every station with which he was connected. When drunken Indians came howling around the mission at night, he would go out and tie the disturbers to the fence to sober off, and the next day they were repentant and meek and full of promises to be good. Whiskey was the greatest enemy the missionaries had to contend with. Introduced by white men, it taxed the ingenuity of other white men to keep the Indians sober. General Cass, who took a profound interest in the early settling of this state, urged upon the white men to keep liquor from the Indians and urged the same upon the different Indian chiefs.

He told Chief Topinabee to keep sober, so as to make good bargains for himself and his people in selling their lands. Topinabee is said to have replied, "Father, we do not care for the land or the money, or the goods offered us. What we want is whiskey. Give us whiskey." It may have been spoken with sarcasm, in view of the manifold anxiety of all the Indians for this beverage, but it is well known that Topinabee himself was a sad drunkard. Contrary to popular belief, the first white traders and trappers proved a blessing to the Indians, for



they brought to them improved weapons and better methods of hunting and fishing and their rude ways and means of agriculture were, by the efforts of the traders, made more profitable, and living among them and adopting some of their ways, they helped to develop the better part of the savage nature and thus introduced among them the elements of civilization and until the advent of the whiskey bottle the white man had it in his power to do great service to the Indians.

Pardon this digression, if it is such, but this is a part of Michigan's early history and of the means used to get from the first owners of this soil their interest in what we so proudly claim today as ours. Treachery and abuse, instead of justice and right, was the principle too often used in the first intercourse between the white and his red brother.

The reason Mr. Slater did not remain longer at the Carey Mission at Niles, and the chief reason of his removing from the Thomas Mission in Grand Rapids, was owing to the disturbing influence wrought by the selling and giving liquor to the Indians. The rapid influx of whites into Grand Rapids, which began in the spring of 1833, and the demoralizing effect produced upon the Indians thereby, indicated to those



in charge the advisability of a removal of the mission and in 1836 land was purchased in Prairieville, Barry county and the mission was moved there. About fifty Indian families in all accompanied Mr. Slater to their new quarters. The sturgeon with which the Grand River had abounded were growing scarce, and there was also a lack of meat, for deer will not stay in a region where guns are fired. So in looking for a new location, it was found that one of the best fishing waters was Gull lake in Barry county, and the rich findings of pickerel with which the lake then abounded, gave great satisfaction to these expert fishermen. They built log houses and each family had their piece of ground to work, but they were not farmers and could not be made such in one generation. Wildness had held them for many generations, and it was a hard matter to make radical changes, and while they learned to love the white man's bread, they knew not how to bear the white man's burden.

At the time Mr. Slater settled in Prairievile, Barry county and Kalamazoo county were undivided. He settled on what was the base line of those counties and near several lakes. A. S. Parker, who built the first frame house and barn in that part of



the country, was a near neighbor. Orville Barnes, Mr. Spaulding, Mr. Otis, Horace Peck and Mr. Brown soon settled near him, also the Daly family. About two and one-half miles south of the mission was the little settlement of Richland, where the post office was kept by Colonel Barnes. In the fall of 1837 the first school house in Prairievile was built. It was large and commodious and served a double purpose. Religious services were held in it on Sunday and school during the week. A sort of belfry was made by four posts put in the ground with cross pieces on the top, and in it was hung the bell Mr. Slater loaned until the Slater Mission Chapel was built, when it was hung in the belfry of that building, calling the Indians together for service as long as they remained. It is now in use in a district school in Prairievile, where it calls the youths to a broader and higher life in education. This bell was purchased by Mr. Slater in Detroit in 1830, and was shipped around the lakes to Grand Haven and then to Grand Rapids in a canal boat, and when the mission was moved from Grand Rapids to Prairievile, the bell accompanied them.

Mr. Slater had mastered the Indian language so as to use it as readily as his own, in his inter-



course with them, he was like a father among his children and as they gathered about him, he would say, "Come now my children, you must cross the dark river; the waters come along swift and they whirl and they are deep, but here is the boat, the life boat. Come into it all of you and be saved." Scripture cards were made for them prepared by Mr. Duncan Ide of Boston, who was a brother of Mrs. Slater. All possible ways they could devise to attract and keep the attention were used by these faithful people. The work accomplished among them would be interpreted differently by different people. It was their earnest endeavor to make the way of eternal life through the Saviour plain to them, and there the responsibility of man ceases. To win the love of one good man or woman is worth the work of a lifetime. To win Christ is more. Under Mr. Slater the New Testament was printed in Indian language and many copies were given these Indians. It is not known who made the translation, but it was published by the American Bible Society.

The singing of hymns to tunes in our own hymn books was very sweet and impressive; the words being in their own language, but one could follow them very well. The Indian women brought to the services



their papooses, each on its padded board, made soft for its little body, and ranged them along the warm side of the room like so many umbrellas, their little eyes shining like glass beads as they looked around on the company in wondering silence. They do not cry aloud as do white babies. Through all the long generations back they have been accustomed to silence, and that is the trait of their nature.

The Indian wigwam might be thought an uncomfortable affair for living in, but such was not the case really, for it was a house all roof, so steep that the rain ran off steadily. After the fire, which was in the center of the hut, was started there was little smoke. There was always a pot simmering over the coals with venison or bear meat or squirrels or other wild game in it. They loved the white woman's bread and meat and above all her fried cakes, and Mrs. Slater, with all patience, taught them as well as she could, her clean, practical New England ways, so that they gradually left off many of their uncouth fashions, substituting her's in place. They were always hungry and never thought it beneath them to ask for "Bucatah" bread. They ate of what was given them and what they did not eat, they put into a fold of their "Mitchicotla" and went on their



way. They gave their confidence slowly, but always remembered a kindness which many times was repaid with a kindly act. They were capable of the most enduring affection and were also capable of great cruelties. History has never recorded, and never will, the horrible scenes of cruelty to captives, men, women and children in the early wars for none but Indians knew the extent and they were silent, for the most part, but occasionally in later years, when somewhat under the influence of firewater, they would relate some of their blood-curdling experiences of the past, of the raids they made among the early settlers in Ohio, and other states, capturing women and children, the latter, if too young to manage well, had their brains dashed out against trees, and the women were compelled to ride astride ponies behind Indians and flee with them or be pierced with arrows.

In this enlightened age it is hard to believe that such things ever occurred, but past history is full of horrors which it may not be well to open. The trials endured by our forefathers in the early settling of this country cannot be truly comprehended by those coming so much later. To them it is ancient history.

The change in their style of dress came about



gradually. It was a difficult matter by mere entreaty or argument to persuade them, but for convenience's sake they dropped their becoming and romantic style of dress. The reds and browns which harmonized so perfectly with their out door surroundings were put aside and they adopted the white man's costume, plug hat and all, and in doing so, a great portion of their dignity seemed to depart.

It was remarked of Chief Noonday that he wore his blanket as though it was a Roman toga, and no hat of any kind could have given him the dignity that seemed born to go with the circlet of eagle's feathers that surrounded the back of his head. It is said of Chief Me-gis-o-nee-nee, who presided over the lower village of Indians in Grand Rapids, that he went to Washington in 1836, to assist in negotiating a treaty, and was presented while there by President Jackson with a suit of new clothes, of which he was very proud, but with it insisted upon having a high hat with a mourning badge on it! Their clothing had been made from tanned deer skins prepared by much labor, but mingling with white men they came to adopt the simple jacket and trousers which could be easily fashioned by their squaws.

The business of the mission required Mr. Slater



to go to Washington at certain periods, and during one of these times of absence Mrs. Slater sickened and died. The Indians mourned her death, and then seemed to lose heart and began to lapse back into their old ways. She had been a counsellor to them in their times of trouble and sorrow, had nursed and cared for them in sickness, and with her housewifery skill and knowledge had sought to teach them practical ways of living. In her quiet patience, she had read to them in their homes from the Word of life, and when the Great Spirit called her away, their hearts were sad and heavy and they learned then what they had only partly realized before, that a rare woman of pure spirit had been sojourning among them, and because she had nothing else to give, had given to them herself, and had labored in season and out of season, if perchance she might win some to the truth.

And so this missionary work, begun in early life and carried on for nearly thirty years by this devoted family came to an end. When the mission broke up in 1854 many of the Indians went to Pentwater, Michigan. Some had intermarried with the Pottowatamies and went into that tribe at Selkirk Mission at Bradley, Allegan county, and some went to Calhoun county.



Mrs. Slater died in the year 1852. For two years thereafter, Mr. Slater continued the work, with the assistance of his daughter Emily, and then the mission broke up and they moved to Kalamazoo. Some of the Indians still clung to the old place and to such Mr. Slater went each Sunday to preach, being taken the fourteen miles between by his faithful old horse, Jack. This horse had done duty in the early period by bringing the mail from Detroit, and served as mail carrier for three years. It took one week to make the trip to Detroit and another week to make the return trip; so in those early days mail was received once in two weeks, and there was twenty-five cents postage for every letter, and now at the closing up of affairs at the mission, old Jack was performing his part as faithfully for his master as in his younger days.

The Mission chapel was built in 1840, and in the winter of 1855-56 was removed to Kalamazoo and set down on Water street, where Tyler and Turner's planing mill stood, and was rebuilt with an additional story and served as a dwelling house for a number of years. It was removed in its second flight to Den Blyker's addition on Portage street where it now stands, being used as a tenement house.



Emily Slater, the faithful daughter and teacher, removed to Kalamazoo with her father and was married to Sylvester St. John, June 22, 1856, in the Baptist church by Reverend J. A. B. Stone. She died February 23, 1893, and her body lies beside her parents in Riverside Cemetery, Kalamazoo.

The news of the war in our own land stirred up the blood of the old revolutionary ancestors, running in the veins of Leonard Slater, and as has been said before, he offered himself for his country's service, volunteering for the Christian Commission without pay, was sent to care for our sick and dying soldiers in hospitals in Nashville, Tennessee. He labored there until his health gave out, and then came home to die, and not yet an old man, departed this life April 27, 1866.

The few remaining Indians living at Prairieville attended the funeral and saw him laid away from their sight.

This devoted and single-hearted missionary died without the satisfaction of feeling that his life work had been a success. The character of the Indian had not been improved by his intercourse with white men, which of itself, was a discouraging fact. With the history before us of those who have strug-



gled and toiled and then laid down to die, comes ever and again the question: "What is life?" Who can answer?

--

The following are some notes taken from the Kalamazoo Gazette:

The United States government agreed to teach the Indians farming and religion when they signed a treaty in which the Indians ceded Michigan territory to the United States. These were the treaties of Chicago and Saginaw in 1819 and 1821, when southern Michigan was turned over to the Federal government. Leonard Slater came to fulfill that promise. The Reverend James Selkirk came later from the Episcopal Church and the Reverend Manasseh Hickey came from The Methodist Church.

#### CHIEF NOONDAY

Chief Noonday died at the age of 98. A monument was erected to his memory in Prairievile Park on the banks of Gull Lake, the Indian name for which was "Bun-ga-bish", meaning "Big Water." The Indian settlement where Leonard Slater began his mission was, "Back-wa-ting", where Grand Rapids now stands. A bronze tablet on the rear of a street railway building bears the following inscription:



"This site marks the site of the First Baptist Mission Station for the Ottawa Indians in Grand Rapids established in 1827, conducted by the Reverend Leonard Slater under the auspices of the American Baptist Missionary Union. Placed by the Baptists of Grand Rapids, June 1909."

#### THE INDIANS AND FIREWATER

Rumsellers would sell the Indians intoxicants and get away from them eight or ten dollars each given them by the Federal government in October. Leonard Slater would smash the barrels.

Joseph Merriam of Yorkville and Leonard Slater had an inn-keeper at Prairieville arrested. When the man pleaded and promised to sell no more liquor to the red men, he was released. Then the inn keeper had Merriam and Slater arrested and jailed for settling. After they spent the night in a jail in Hastings, Slater secured bail and started to get bail for Merriam. Judge Ransom of Kalamazoo was holding court in Hastings and would not allow the case to be called and the two men were released.

#### THE LEONARD SLATER MISSION NEAR GULL LAKE

When Leonard Slater brought fifty Ottawa Indian families to this location in 1836 the tract was



one of a thousand acres secured from Luther Hill, a part of which was Garden Prairie on which the first settler, Amasa S. Parker, located five years before.

MRS. SLATER

Mrs. Slater and Mrs. Sophie de Marsac were the only white women in the Slater Mission when it was started in 1827. Mrs. Slater ministered in the wigwams and log cabins of the Indians and gave medicine when the children were sick and told the Indian women what to do. The body of Mrs. Slater was buried in Richland as were the bodies of other members of the Slater family, but after Leonard Slater's body became the first to be buried in Riverside cemetery, Kalamazoo, the bodies of those buried in Richland were moved to Riverside.



Howard Smiley



H O W A R D   D W I G H T   S M I L E Y

1 8 7 7   -   1 9 4 0

-o-

Howard Dwight Smiley was born in Marshall, Michigan, September 1, 1877, son of James F. Smiley, M. D., and a descendant of eight generations of doctors, and Mina Stedman Smiley, who was of Scotch descent.

Howard Dwight Smiley attended the public school in Marshall and was graduated from the high school, after which he attended Albion College. About 1905, he was a member of the Kalamazoo Gazette staff. He also worked on newspapers in Marshall and Detroit. He was also a student in the Student Art League of New York City.

November 29, 1921, he was married to Erma Estell and they began housekeeping in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where they resided for three years and then moved to Kalamazoo and lived on South Burdick street until they made their home in Galesburg, Michigan, where they resided until his death, which occurred May 2, 1940.

Mr. Smiley was a Republican and his father was a member of the lower house of the Michigan legisla-



ture. Howard was also a member of the Sons of Veterans. He had an older brother, Robert, who died at the age of twelve years; a sister, Ella, who married Colonel Joseph E. Watson, who served two terms as representative in the Michigan legislature, two terms in the state Senate and was a member of Governor Warner's staff - both Mr. and Mrs. Watson are deceased; another sister, Mollie, married Mr. Hitchcock, became the mother of James Hitchcock, who is on the staff of the Grand Rapids Herald, the father and mother are both deceased.

Howard Dwight Smiley loved the out-of-doors and was fond of hunting and fishing. He also enjoyed athletic sports, as a spectator, and was a good swimmer.

His parents were Presbyterians and he was baptized and united with that church when a lad. Later he became interested in Christian Science and a reader of that church, L. S. Knorr, read the service at Mr. Smiley's funeral, after which he was buried in the Marshall cemetery.

In personal appearance Mr. Smiley was about six feet tall, weighed about one hundred sixty-five pounds, had blue eyes and medium dark hair.

He made many friends and his wide acquaintance



was attested by the lovely floral offerings sent from California, Kansas, Missouri, and New York at the time of his death.

He loved flowers and his garden was full of beautiful varieties and was remarkable for its artistic setting. He was also a lover of antiques and knew their value and owned many unusual pieces.

He was a great reader, always kept abreast of the times and was especially interested in youth movements.

He spent most of his life writing and was a well known writer of short stories, and at one time was claimed to have published the largest number of stories in one year of any author in the United States. His book of poems, "Ol' Stampin' Grounds and Other Poems", was among those required read in high schools. A copy has been placed in Continental hall, D. A. R., Washington, D. C., and in the Michigan Historical Collection in the University of Michigan.

The following was written by a staff correspondent of a local newspaper:

"Gull Lake, July 19 - As the musical twanging of a banjo's strings send Dixie-land tremulations up and down the vertebrae, resorters here can find a poetical thrill by reading 'Ol' Stampin' Grounds and Other Poems' by



Howard Dwight Smiley, the bard of the lake - that is, they can if they do some scouting for a copy of the book, since it is now out of print.

"The poet of the lake lives in a 'doll's house' at the entrance of Lovers Lane. The cottage is snug, quiet and comfortable. It has a phonograph and all the other summer requisites to soothing of nerves strained by the high-tension civilization of cities. Mr. Smiley himself, however, always appears to be highly strung. He moves quickly, talks quickly, thinks quickly. In his eyes is the humor of philosophy that he has so many times set to poetical rhythm. He is hospitable, and his cottage has become the retreat of many literary people from Kalamazoo, Battle Creek and Marshall. William Wallace Cook, author of the 'Fiction Factory' with his home in Marshall calls at this new 'shack' in memory of the old one at LaBelle in front of the cottage built in 1877 by Dr. James S. Smiley, father of Howard Dwight.

He Wrote in 'Shack'

"In those days, through the '90s, the 'Shack' was the rendezvous of literary folk from many states. At that time Mr. Smiley was writing fiction prolifically that appeared in the Argosy, the Munsey publications, Top-Notch and other periodicals. It was at the 'Shack' that Mr. Smiley scribbled that familiar bit of verse to Gull Lake:

'Green grow your banks, oh bonny Gull,  
Upon your peaceful breast  
The music of your wavelets lull  
All nature unto rest.  
If I could dwell beside your shore  
Or by your peaceful river,  
I'd be content and ask no more  
Than live and live forever.

.....

"This poet of the lake is undoubtedly its pioneer also. He remembered the first cottage at Gull, built by Commodore M. S. O'Keefe, which has since been remodelled. The row of cottages at LaBelle were practically all



built by Marshall people, and was known as Marshall street.

"Another pioneer of the lake, Miss Sara E. Hall, but recently left Gull. She owns the cottage her father built soon after Dr. Smiley built his. Miss Hall taught school for 60 years."

The following are a few of the poems from  
Mr. Smiley's pen:

## Little Girl

Sweet are the flowers that blow, little girl,  
In the wood and garden and field;  
I have gathered them all, and I know, little girl,  
Of the beauty and sweetness they yield.  
But all of their fairness and fragrance combined,  
From the rose to the violet blue,  
Cannot equal the charm that I find, little girl,  
In the bonnie sweet features of you.

The South wind sweeps o'er the hill, little girl,  
Through the red clover blossoms it roves;  
The honey-bee's drinking its fill, little girl,  
And is drunk with the nectar it loves.  
The clover yields saccharine food for the bee,  
But the warm, loving touch of your lips  
Is a hundred fold sweeter to me, little girl,  
Than the nectar the honey bee sips.

I know a little girl of mine  
Who says she wants a valentine.

\* \* \* \*

Right now the wind is blowing chill  
The snow is on the glade and hill



The lake is full of ice;  
 The flowers and the birds are gone,  
 The woods are dreary, stark and lone,  
 It really isn't nice.

But just a little longer, love,  
 When green's below and blue's above,  
 And everything is fine;  
 When robins wake us with their cheer  
 Beside Gull's waters, cool and clear,  
 I'll be your valentine!

Robin, robin,  
 Bobbin', bobbin',  
 On a maple bough;  
 Welcome back, you little vagrant,  
 Harbinger of blossoms fragrant,  
 Robin, robin,  
 Bobbin', bobbin',  
 On a maple bough.

Robin, robin,  
 Bobbin', bobbin',  
 Sing a song o' Spring;  
 Sing a song o' budding bowers,  
 A world of melody and flowers,  
 Robin, robin,  
 Bobbin', bobbin',  
 Sing a song o' Spring.

The following from Mr. Smiley's pen was published  
 in Argosy - All Story in April 1925:

Sisyphean

A hot vast empty waste of sage and sand,  
 A droning fly, a rattler, coiled, asleep,  
 Stark, wind-bitten rocks, grotesquely carved,  
 A buzzard wheeling in the copper sky.  
 A lone prospector, trudging wearily,  
 His burro browsing cactus hungrily,  
 A glint of yellow in the hot white sand -  
 A shout! An uncouth jig! Stampeding hordes -  
 A city overnight! Wild, frenzied men!  
 Crazed with gold and lust and greed o' gain!  
 Lewd women, gamblers, thugs, hooch panderers,  
 Evil unleashed in one mad swirl - A pause -  
 "Gone bust!" The outward trek, the crumbling  
 shacks -  
 A lone prospector trudging wearily,



A droning fly, a rattler, coiled, asleep,  
A hot vast empty waste of sage and sand.



Charles Henry Smith



C H A R L E S   H E N R Y   S M I T H

1 8 6 1   -   1 9 3 5

-o-

Charles Henry Smith was born in Lawton, Michigan, May 30, 1861, son of Louise Miller and Jesse Smith. The mother, Louise Miller, was born in Middleburg, Vermont, November 3, 1826.

Charles attended the Lawton school and at the age of eighteen he learned telegraphy and became a telegraph operator for the Michigan Central Railway and worked at various places in Southern Michigan. About 1899 he became train master of the South Haven and Eastern Railway with an office at Paw Paw, Michigan. He continued in this office until the road was sold to the Pere Marquette Railway.

Mr. Smith came to Kalamazoo November 1, 1902, as cashier for the Michigan United Railway Company, and later was made inspector, and later became auditor. In 1906 he was appointed Superintendent of Transportation, which office he held until 1914, when he was transferred to Saginaw, Michigan, and was made Superintendent of the Saginaw-Bay City interurban lines and all connecting interurban lines, until they went into receiver's hands in 1921. While there he was



the first person to operate a one-man car in Michigan.

In 1922, Mr. Smith was transferred to Jackson, Michigan, and was made superintendent of the Jackson City car lines. The next year, just nine years to the day from the date he went to Saginaw, he returned to Kalamazoo, and became General Superintendent of the Kalamazoo Transportation Company, and also of the Eastern Michigan Transportation Company, until they ceased operation October 31, 1932.

June 29, 1887, Mr. Smith was married to Lucy S. Rix of Lawton, Michigan. They were the parents of Rex K. Smith, born March 20, 1891, died April 26, 1914.

Mr. Smith was a kindly, unassuming man much beloved by the men who worked under him. He was not alone an employer, but an understanding friend. He belonged to the Elks for more than thirty years. He was fond of base ball and was at one time pitcher for the Lawton base ball team.

Mr. Smith was ill for more than four years before death came November 22, 1935. The funeral was conducted by the Reverend Henry Liddicoat, burial at Riverside Cemetery.

Written September 7, 1936



Eugene Emerson Smith



E U G E N E   E M E R S O N   S M I T H

1 9 1 6   -   1 9 4 4

-o-

Technical Sergeant Eugene Emerson Smith died in an army hospital in the South Pacific February 8, 1944, six weeks after and as the result of burns which he received December 13, 1943, when a flame thrower he was installing in a tank exploded.

The Legion of Merit was posthumously awarded to Technical Sergeant Smith and was presented to his wife at the 728th Military Police Battalion parade grounds in Detroit, Michigan.

The Citation with the award reads as follows:

"For exceptional meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service at an island base in the South Pacific area from the 15th of November to the 13th of December, 1943, Despite the intrinsic danger of his work, Sgt. Smith successfully planned and supervised the construction and installation of an original tank-mounted flame-thrower which has greatly increased the striking power of light tanks.

"When the weapon was in its experimental stages, he personally risked the hazards of fire and the difficulty of escape in an emergency, rather than delegate these duties to his subordinates.

"While engaged in a dangerous experiment, he received the burns which caused his death on the eighth of February, 1944. Sgt. Smith's inventiveness, mechanical genius, and devotion



to duty resulted in the perfection of an important new tank weapon."

Sergeant Smith entered the army on February 1, 1943, and after two weeks at Camp Grant was transferred to Camp Sibert, Alabama, where he was trained with a chemical composite company. He went overseas in May 1943, without having had a furlough.

His body was buried in New Caledonia.

#### Birth and Education

He was born in Hoopston, Illinois, October 26, 1916, son of Paul and Emma Wolfe Smith, of English and Irish descent. Eugene had a brother, who is married and at this time in 1946 resides in Jackson, Michigan. His name is Walter Smith.

The family moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan, when Eugene was a small boy. He attended the Lincoln and Central High Schools until he reached his junior year in high school when he left and was employed as tower man for four years by the New York Central Railroad Company. Later he worked for a time for the Shakespeare Products Company and then for the Reo Automobile Company in Lansing, Michigan, until he was called into the armed service of the United States.

#### Marriage

His first marriage was to Winifred Corstange



of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and they became the parents of David, who was born , and lives with his mother. This marriage was dissolved.

On May 2, 1942, Eugene Emerson Smith was married to Marguerite Lucille Clark of Kalamazoo, Michigan, daughter of Charles and Phoebe Hughson Clark. The ceremony was performed by the Reverend Richard Wearne, pastor of the Stockbridge Avenue Methodist Church.

#### Personal Characteristics

Eugene was five feet eleven inches tall, slender in figure, and had dark hair and brown eyes.

He was an ardent fan for baseball and football and liked to swim and dance. He greatly appreciated good music and liked handicraft and machinery.

He was a handsome lad, made hosts of friends, was agreeable, conscientious, thoughtful and industrious.

The following is copied from an editorial in "The Reporter" a mimeographed sheet put out by Eugene's buddies:

"His determination of making progress and the success of his adventures through the old 'trial and error' system had brought to him, the company, to the whole Allied war effort, wide recognition and unique pieces of equipment. Many of these will save countless lives of fellow soldiers. Some of them will doubtless draw high comment for their splendid workmanship and reliability."



Ralph Dawson, Public Relations NCO, South Pacific General Depot, wrote:

"Smitty, as we called him, died as great a hero as any man on any fighting front in the world. His work was behind the lines - true - but he was one of those men who through their knowledge of specific jobs has to perfect or invent the tools and equipment that our front line men use to forge on to victory and to peace.

"Smitty gave his life to his job, his duty, his country. He helped perfect an instrument of War that may go down in history as a wonderful piece of equipment. Never did he leave a stone unturned in trying and attaining the perfection he so desired."

Captain Edward A. Molloy, Eugene's Chaplain, wrote:

"The day after the accident I visited him at the hospital and asked if he wanted anything. The first thing he asked for was a picture of you and the family he had in his tent. From the very first day he fought every handicap like a hero, but gradually it became evident that there was too much to fight against."

Lieutenant Ray Cholewinski wrote:

". . . he not only did his part - he performed work far above the average."

Lieutenant A. W. Meetze, of the Chemical Warfare Service, wrote:

". . . his Commanding Officer told me that he was one of the best men that he had in the Company and that his work is outstanding."

First Lieutenant Robert S. McDougall, CWS, Commanding, wrote:

"Eugene was held in high regard by all members of the command. He was a splendid soldier and an outstanding character."





Floyd Smith

F L O Y D   L   S M I T H

-o-

Floyd L. Smith was born near the Day school house in Ross Township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan, July 22, 1882, son of Addie Hall and Ozro Smith.

Ozro Smith, the father, was born in Ross Township January 7, 1856 and died December 29, 1932. The mother was born August 29, 1858 and at this writing, 1936, resides at 1427 Clinton Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan. The family was of English and Scotch descent.

Floyd was reared on a farm in Ross Township and attended the Day school and later in 1905 graduated from the Augusta High school. After graduation he worked for a time on the farm and in 1905 taught the Bissell school in Richland Township. He later taught one year in Schoolcraft and one year in Augusta and he also taught in Prairie Ronde. In 1910 and 1911 he was principal of the Ferrysburg school.

On May 1, 1912 Floyd Smith was appointed R. F. D. carrier on U. S. mail route No. 1 out of Kalamazoo. In 1913 he became a mail carrier in the City of Kalamazoo and continued in that work until



his death.

Mr. Smith was a member of Spirit No. 12 of the Metropolitan Club; a member of Branch No. 248 of the National Association of Letter Carriers and a member of the Isaac Walton Club. It was his custom to attend whatever church was located in the vicinity of his home.

Floyd L. Smith married Bessie A. Piper, who resided near Brook Farm, Augusta, July 7, 1906. The following children came to the home: June, who married Charles M. Baker of Cerro de Pasco, Peru, South America; Shirley May who died September 9, 1910 aged ten months; Claude Russell, of Grand Rapids, Michigan; and Laura A. who married Charles Burchard and died October 13, 1935.

Mr. Smith was very fond of hunting and fishing and the out-of-doors and greatly enjoyed contract bridge.

His death occurred December 20, 1935. The funeral was conducted by the Reverend Robert J. Locke D. D., pastor of the First Congregational Church and burial was made in the Day cemetery in Ross Township.

Mr. Smith had hosts of friends who expressed their appreciation in floral offerings. Those living in the southeast section of Kalamazoo, where Mr. Smith carried mail, raised a fund for flowers and a



memorial urn for the cemetery. About three hundred names were on the list of donors.

"They never quite leave us, our friends who  
have passed  
Thru the shadows of death to the sunlight  
above;  
A thousand sweet memories are holding them  
fast  
To the places they blest with their presence  
and love."



Lemuel F. Smith



L E M U E L   F I S H   S M I T H

1 8 7 3   -

-o-

Lemuel Fish Smith was born in Mercer County, Kentucky, February 9, 1873. His father was named Henry Homer Smith and his wife was Emily Jane Bunnell. The family moved to Grundy County, Missouri, in 1878. In 1884, the family moved to Trenton, Missouri, and this town was the home of the subject of this sketch until 1902. The family consisted of seven boys and four girls.

To maintain the family required the earning ability of all the boys and the father. Lemuel made flower beds, cleaned lawns, cut wood, carried papers and did all sorts of chores including the making of two barrels of soft soap for a hotel. For several years he was a "printer's devil", and did the menial work which required him to be at the tasks by six o'clock in the morning. In 1890, he was engaged in canvassing the county for subscriptions and reporting local news for the paper.

In the early nineties he met Bertha Onderdonk, who became the inspiration and the determining influence in all the years to follow. Somehow



college life became the goal and ways and means were discovered to finance the preparatory work and the years at William Jewell College.

From 1897 to 1902, Mr. Smith was the teacher of science in the high school at Trenton, Missouri. At the close of this period he was married to his only sweetheart, the lovely Bertha Onderdonk. They went to Winona Lake, Indiana, where until 1908 he taught the sciences in the Winona Academy.

From 1908 to 1910, Mr. Smith had charge of the Physics and Chemistry course in the State Normal at Marysville, Missouri. Then the following fifteen months the family lived in Chicago where Mr. Smith continued graduate work in chemistry in the University of Chicago, which conferred upon him the degree of Master of Science in June 1911.

Upon the recommendation of the University of Chicago, Mr. Smith was given the position of Professor of Chemistry in Kalamazoo College and the duties of the new position were assumed in September 1911. In recognition of his work as a teacher as evidenced, among other ways, by the number of his students who had successfully continued their work in the universities leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry, Kalamazoo College,



at her Centennial Celebration in 1933, conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Science.

Dr. Smith has been interested in civic welfare of Kalamazoo. For years he maintained membership in the Chamber of Commerce and has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Y. M. C. A. for some time. He has participated in campaigns for various civic needs. Almost from its beginning he has been a member of the Kiwanis Club. He was president of the Club in 1921; was Lieutenant Governor of the organization for the District of Michigan in 1935, and on three occasions was official delegate to the International Convention.

In 1924, Dr. Smith was largely instrumental in establishing the Kalamazoo Educational Aid Fund and from its beginning he has been a member of the Board of Directors of the organization and since 1926 has been Secretary of the Board. By the administration of this fund many young people have been assisted in completing their college work and carrying on post graduate work.

In every sort of way Dr. Smith has been identified with the religious activities in the city and in the state. Most of his services were made available by the Baptist Church. For eighteen



years he taught a large student class in the Sunday School of the First Baptist Church of Kalamazoo; served as a member of the Board of Deacons in that Church; for ten years functioned as Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees and was Chairman of the Finance Committee during the reorganization of the Church and the construction of a new building for educational and social purposes.

Dr. Smith's devotion to his church and his abilities attracted attention throughout the state and he became prominent in the Michigan Baptist Convention, serving as a member of the Executive Committee, as Chairman of Men's Work Committee and as a member of the Finance Committee. In 1933, Dr. Smith was elected President of the Michigan Baptist Convention and served until 1936. During his administration the great Centennial Celebration of the Convention was held in the city of Detroit. Throughout his life Dr. Smith has spoken in the pulpits of many churches of various denominations.

There were two daughters in the home: Alma Emily, who married Kenneth Lewis Crawford, M. D., and Bertha Margaret, who married Edwin Eugene Meader. Three grandchildren call him "Pops", Lewis Alfred, Richard Bradway and Barbara Joyce Crawford,



Something of the high esteem in which Dr. Smith is held by those who have worked with him is seen from the following:

"Professor Lemuel F. Smith, M. S., Sc. D., has been a colleague of mine on the faculty of Kalamazoo College for more than twenty years. In fact, he came to this college several years before I did. We have worked together all these years for the advancement of the College, and Dr. Smith, as Head of the Department of Chemistry, has been a major factor and influence in the academic, physical, social and spiritual upbuilding of this "Fellowship in Learning".

"Not only has Professor Smith shown ability and interest in the class room, as a student and teacher of chemistry, he has also proved to be a real inspirer of youth to nobler ideals and greater efforts toward self realization for effective service in the world of human relationships. He has so led his classes in the field of his study as to inspire a very large number to the attainment of the doctorate in chemistry.

"I regard Dr. Smith most highly for his strong and attractive personality, his inspiring presence and fine sense of humor, and his absolute integrity of character."

Sincerely yours,  
Herman H. Severn,  
Dean of the College.

The following was written by Reverend H. C. Gleiss, D. D.:

"Professor Smith was President of the Michigan Baptist Convention from October 1933, to October 1936. Usually men serve only two years, but Dr. Smith had started something so important that the Convention felt that we must have him for three years.



"When he discovered that the Michigan Baptist Convention would celebrate its 100th Anniversary in October, 1936, he proposed that we set up a great program, but not only a program, but also set for ourselves three or four great goals, which would stir up our churches and cause us to reach forward to great things. Accordingly, he caused us to develop these goals:

1. Soul Winning. We were to make the effort to add 17,000 new members to our churches from October 1, 1934, to September 30, 1936.
2. Higher Education. We agreed to press the claims of higher education to all Baptists, especially those now in high school. It was the goal to increase the number by at least ten per cent.
3. Payment of Church Debts. During the period 1920 to 1930, all of Michigan and most of the United States went on a spree of spending money. Our churches also, so that in the spring of 1934 we found an indebtedness of nearly \$2,000,000.00 among all the Baptist churches of Michigan. This amount was greatly cut down so that only a little more than one-quarter of that amount now remains.

4. Christian Social Action. It was agreed that too long Christians had been satisfied with lip service, and had too largely neglected applying all of the teachings of Christ to all of life. Hence, an aggressive committee made serious effort to develop "Christian Social Action".

"I am in a position to know that two or three times the whole program was in danger of breaking down. If it had not been for the inspiration of Professor Smith and his tactful leadership, there was serious danger of a break down of the whole program. But he, together with the Executive Secretary, Rev. Ralph T. Andem, of Lansing, kept the works going until we had the most successful Convention in the history of the Michigan



Baptist Convention during October 18-22, 1936. Certainly many others worked diligently and deserved much praise, but it was the never flagging interest and enthusiasm of our President, Professor L. F. Smith, that assured success".

Written in May, 1938





1917  
H. E. -  
P. O. B. 1775, 27

Mrs. Bertha Onderdonk Smith

B E R T H A   O N D E R D O N K   S M I T H

1873   -   1935

-o-

Our hearts are full for the sake of Mrs. L. F. Smith, who was taken so suddenly from our midst. She was the wife of Dr. L. F. Smith of Kalamazoo College and had lived in Kalamazoo for twenty-four years.

The manner of her passing was in keeping with her manner of living, quietly and unobtrusively, yet being felt as a distinct shock by all of us. Her interests were her home, her church, art and her fellow men.

Her church affiliation was with the First Baptist Church, having been reared in a home which was of that faith. Her home and church were first in her life. The full story of the devotion of her home life is locked in the sacred memory of her loved ones, tho' her intimate friends felt its influence. In her earlier years in other localities where her husband taught, she had more fully identified her activities with the student body. In connection with the church, she kept herself well informed in matters of local and national



action. Her beliefs were not dominated by a blind allegiance, but an active and discriminating mind supplied a reason for the direction of her life powers. The annals of the Baptist Church and Women's organization record her valuable work on Committees and Board, and memory brings back many bright pictures of her in various activities.

For twenty years she was a member of the Fine Arts Club for Kalamazoo. She was a great lover of Art! Works of art so drew her that a visit in the vicinity of an Art Museum was never completed until she had seen some of its treasures. The duties and privileges of the Fine Arts Club were a vital thing in her life. She had said to her family that next to her church she valued the membership in the Club. Tho' so frail in health she was seldom absent from the meetings, always listening with enjoyment to the papers of others, and carrying her full share of all activities.

She was a true patriot, well read and thoughtful on matters of City, State and National issue, and she took a keen and lively interest in events that affect the world of today. She was a descendent of those early settlers who came from Holland to colonize New York, her maiden name being Onderdonk. Many valuable family heirlooms had



recently come into her possession, and these she valued with the instincts of an art lover, as well as cherishing the family belongings. Among them is a tall old clock. In her father's house its place was on the stairway. She and Mr. Smith were married at nine o'clock in the morning, and as they came down the stairs in the wedding processional, the clock slowly intoned the hour of happiness.

We are all glad to know that we are well descended, and she was pleased to be the possessor of an old manuscript record of the descent of her family from Anneka Jans who came to the New Netherlands from Holland in 1630, with her husband, Roeloff Jansen, and took up a large tract of land on Manhattan Island.

Her convictions on the value of Art are expressed in an annual Secretary's report of January, 1919. War relief work had necessarily claimed a large share of the time of the members. She said:- "To many minds the study of Art has seemed a trivial matter, in the midst of the great crisis, and awful suffering, through which the nations of the world were passing. But to the members of the Fine Arts Club, it has seemed that the cultivation of the true and beautiful, as expressed in Art, must



be one of the most potent forces, not only in preserving a sane and wholesome attitude toward the then present conditions, but also in the days of reconstruction. And that is not only our pleasure but our duty to do all in our power to promote in the world this great agency for its moral uplift. That an increased appreciation of true values, and the inspiration of the beautiful, will be more and more necessary, if our ideals for the future are to be reached. Thus it is our faith that our members will rally increasingly to the support of the "Club."

Her fine nature was attuned to vibrant strings which clearly gave forth life's varied melodies. She seemed lifted out of the plane of acquiescence in the limitations of physical handicap into a sphere where spirit and will dominated her life. Never aggressive in expression of opinion, everything that she did was accomplished with a quiet grace, sincerity and dignity.

We shall miss her more than we can tell, and our hearts go out in sympathy to her family who have known so well her loving ministrations and companionship. But her soul is not sleeping. In our Father's provision are many mansions. She has stepped into the next "Mansion" in the group of



which this world is one. There her bright spirit, with eager acquisitiveness is exploring the new problems, the further reaches and the greater depths of our Father's love, and where with our spiritual eye we may see her when we will.

We needs must accept the final, but the thought that grows more and more strong is that the ending of her life on this earth was a beautiful counterpart of her living. She "lay down to pleasant dreams" and for her there was "no sadness of farewell when her bark put out to sea."

(The above are excerpts from a tribute given before The Fine Arts Club by Ada L. MacEwan).

The following tribute was written by her husband:

"Words simply will not reveal often what the heart understands and what is the most precious experience. Because of this, I am hesitant in giving a brief biography of Bertha Onderdonk Smith, my lovely wife. To me she was the perfect gift of God. All that I have known of life that was reverent, exquisite, significant, or thrilling with the joys of human companionship, or responding to the impact of the Eternal, I owe to her sanity and rich graciousness of spirit. Though the frail and beautiful body has perished - that personality can not die.

"Bertha Onderdonk Smith was the daughter of Abram H. Onderdonk and Almy Britten Onderdonk. Her ancestors were among those in New York described by Washington Irving and who made their way to Wisconsin. Her parents upon their marriage migrated to



Wheeling, Missouri, where Bertha was born August 4th, 1873. In this village and in the towns of Chillicothe and Trenton, Missouri, she developed into womanhood.

"On August 6th, 1902, she was married to Lemuel Fish Smith. From 1902 to 1908 their home was in Winona Lake, Indiana; 1908 to 1910, in Marysville, Missouri; 1910-1911 was spent in Chicago, and from 1911, in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

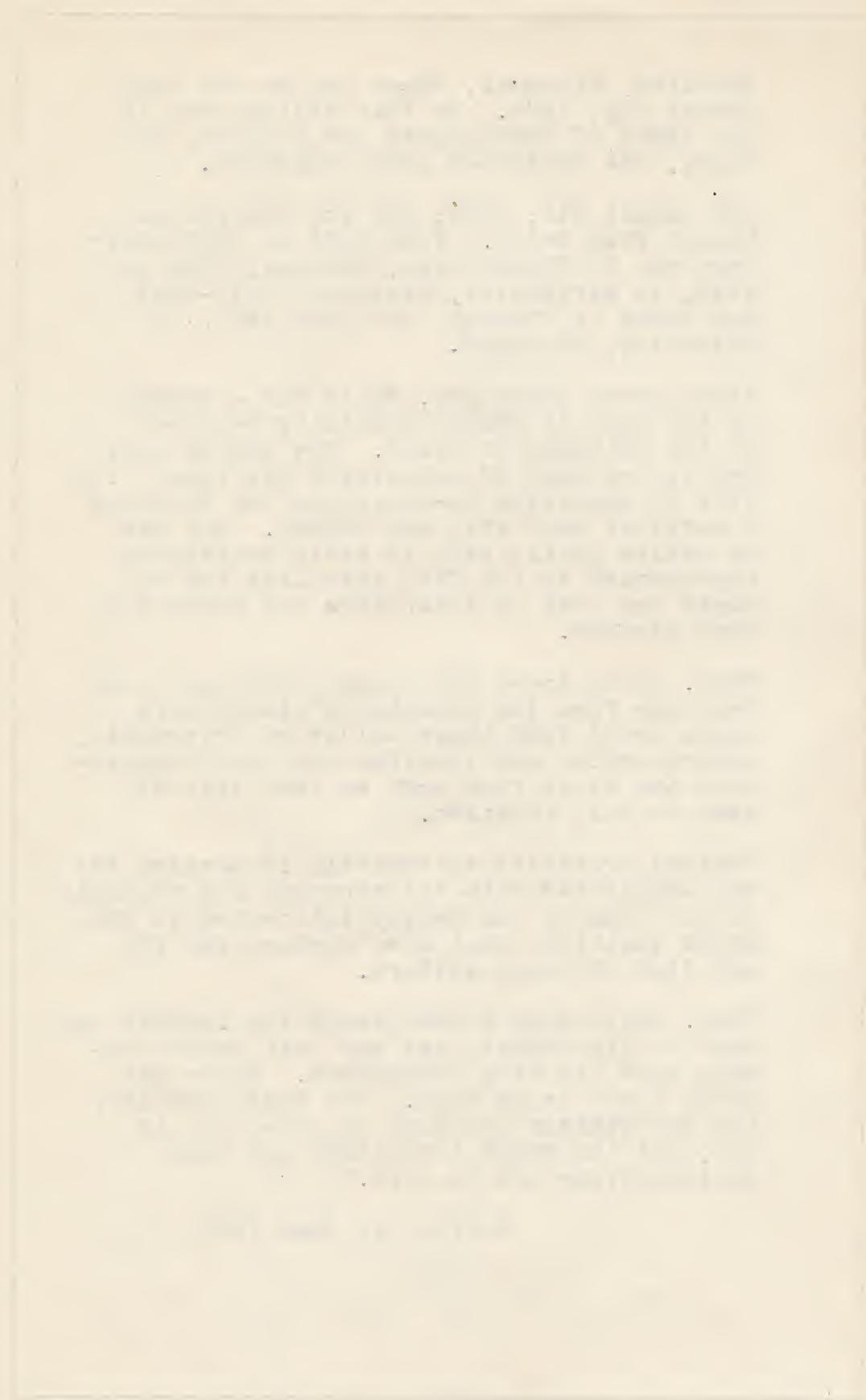
"From early youth Mrs. Smith was a member of the Baptist Church and fully devoted to the religion of Jesus. The church gave her varied ways of expressing her inner rich life in unselfish co-operation for building a world of good will and beauty. She was an active participant in civic enrichment represented by the Fine Arts Club and enjoyed the best in literature and music and home gardens.

"Mrs. Smith loved the young people and made her home from its founding a place where youth could find those values of friendship, understanding and idealism that must supplement the class room work so that life may come to full fruition.

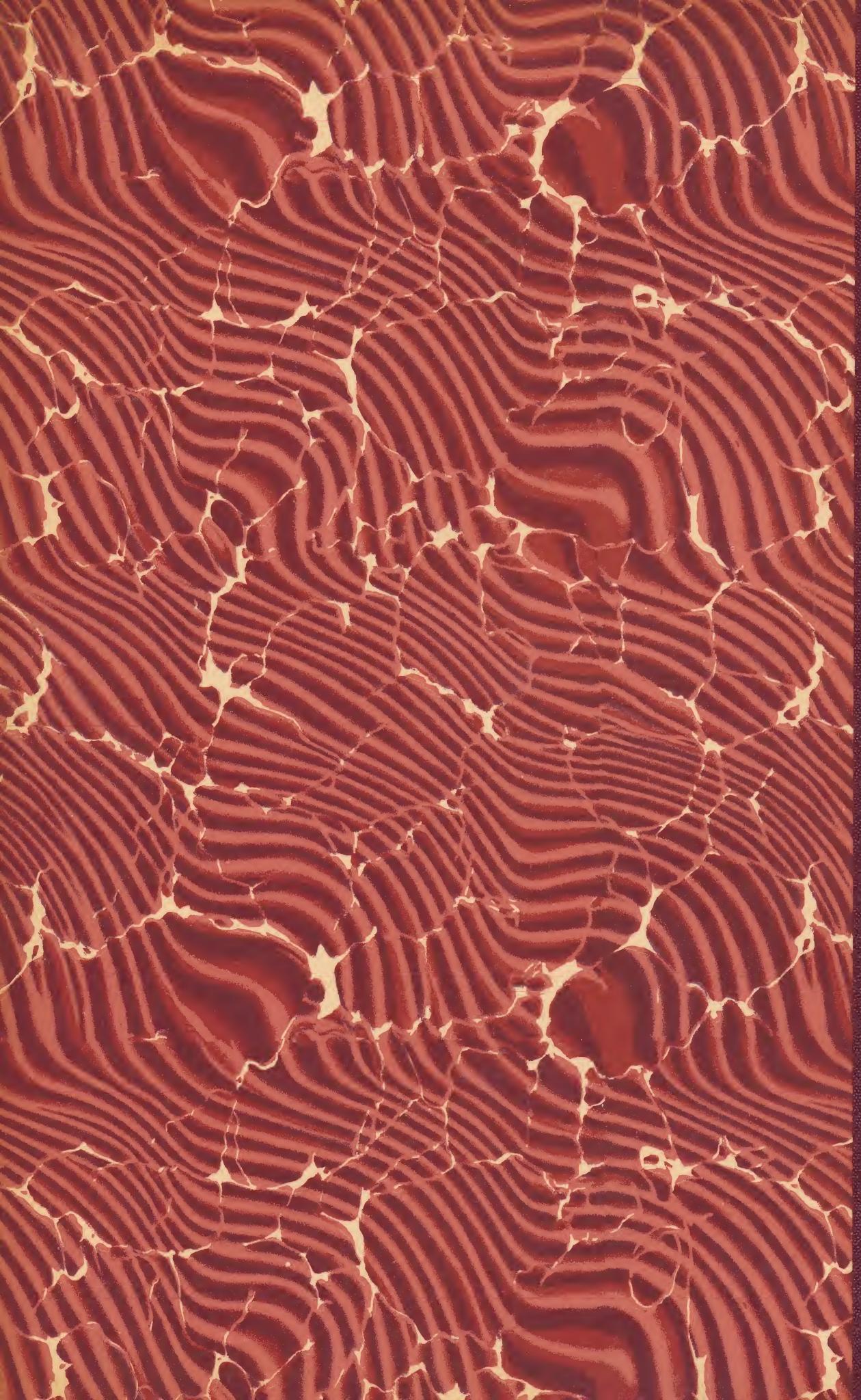
"Having travelled extensively in America she was acquainted with the strength and weakness of our country and deeply interested in the great questions that ever disturb the ebb and flow of human welfare.

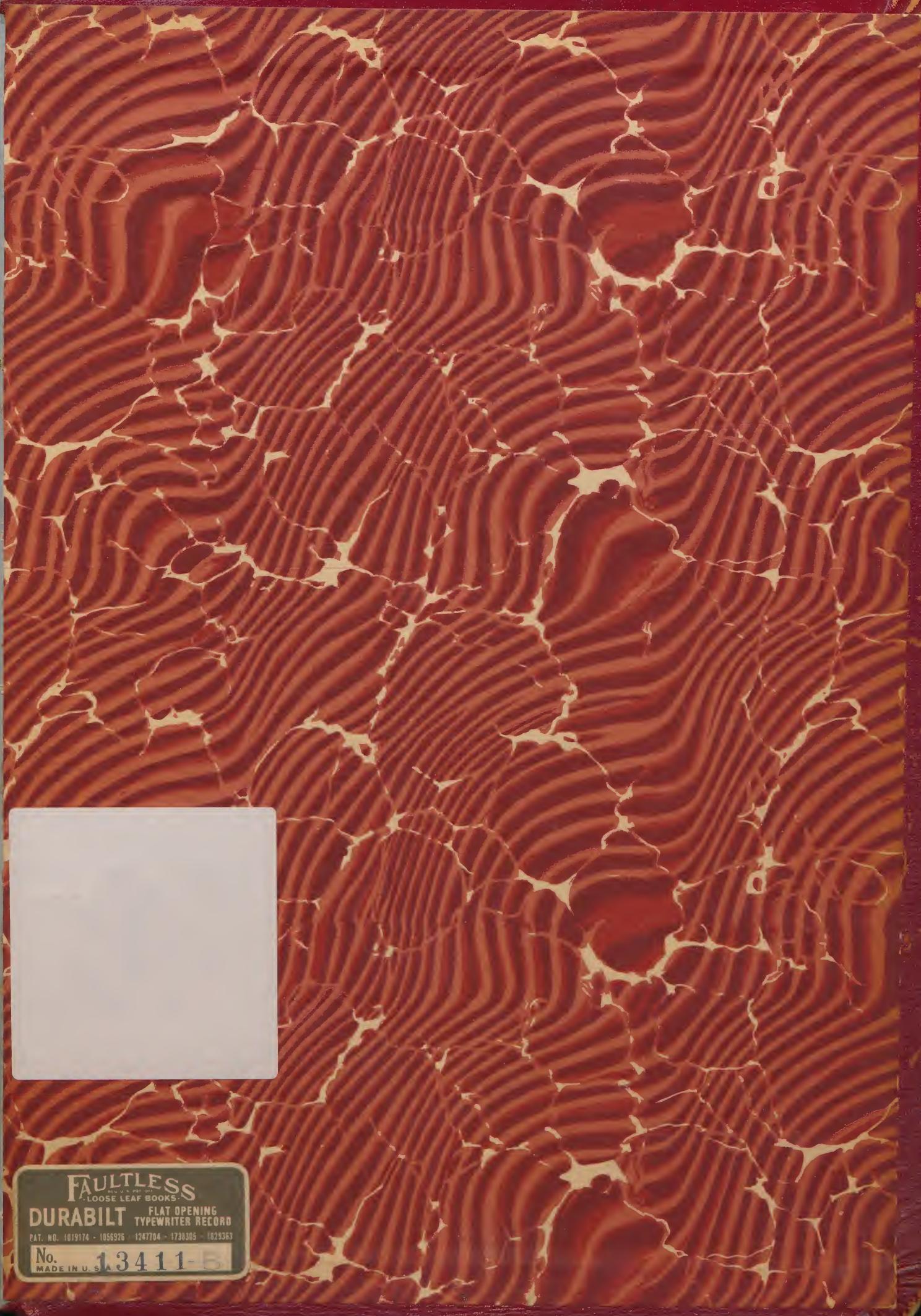
"Mrs. Smith made a home where the highest and best in literature, art and dear companionship were its very atmosphere. Since her going there is no home. The house remains, the furnishings are kept in order and in use, but the sweet loveliness and heart satisfactions are no more."

Written in June 1937











0 2024 0258032 0

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC LIBRARY